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A Tale of Three Sisters: Reconstructing the Holocene glacial history and paleoclimate record at Three Sisters Volcanoes, Oregon, United States

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THESIS APPROVAL


The abstract and thesis of Shaun Andrew Marcott for the Master of Science in Geology were presented August 11, 2005, and accepted by the thesis committee and the department.

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ABSTRACT

An abstract of the thesis of Shaun Andrew Marcott for the Master of Science in Geology presented August 11, 2005.

Title: A Tale of Three Sisters: Reconstructing the Holocene glacial history and paleoclimate record at Three Sisters Volcanoes, Oregon, United States.

At least four glacial stands occurred since 6.5 ka B.P. based on moraines located on the eastern flanks of the Three Sisters Volcanoes and the northern flanks of Broken Top Mountain in the Central Oregon Cascades. The youngest of these advances was the Little Ice Age (LIA) glaciation, which reached its maximum advance 150-200 yrs. B.P. and is defined by the large sharp crested and unvegetated moraines adjacent to the modern glaciers. In isolated locations less than 100 m downslope from these moraines, a second set of sparsely vegetated lateral moraines marks the Late-Neoglacial stand of the glaciers between 2.1 ± 0.4 and 7.7 ka B.P. A third set of Early-Neoglacial end moraines is 300-700 meters downslope of the modern glacier termini, and postdates 7.7 ka B.P. From SST temperature data (Barron et al., 2003) and a speleothem record (Vacco, 2003), we infer that this advance occurred between 4.5 and 6.5 ka B.P. Finally, the Fountonnor stand is marked by moraines 500-900 meters downslope of the modern glacier termini, and we infer these are latest Pleistocene or early Holocene.

Modern equilibrium line altitudes (ELAs) at the Three Sisters and Broken Top are approximately 2500 – 2600 m. During the LIA, the ELAs were 40 - 180 m lower, requiring cooler mean summer temperatures by 0.7 – 1.0°C and winter snowfall to increase by 10 – 60 cm water equivalent. The average Early-Neoglacial and Fountonnor ELAs were 130 – 300 m and 290 – 320 m lower than modern glaciers, respectively, requiring air temperatures to be 0.7 – 1.6°C and 1.5 – 1.7°C cooler during the summer and winter snowfall to be 40 – 100 cm water equivalent and 90 – 100 cm water equivalent greater.

A TALE OF THREE SISTERS: RECONSTRUCTING THE HOLOCENE GLACIAL
HISTORY AND PALEOCLIMATE RECORD AT THREE SISTERS VOLCANOES,
OREGON, UNITED STATES.

by

SHAUN ANDREW MARCOTT

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE
in
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Chapter 1: Introduction

Small mountain glaciers respond sensitively to climate (Lowe and Walker, 1997; Owen et al., 2003), thus determining the timing and extent of past glaciation can lead to inferences of past climate. Recent research on glacial activity during the last deglaciation has identified several late Pleistocene and early Holocene glacial advances in Washington, Idaho, Montana, California, and northeastern Oregon (Clark, 1997; Clark and Gillespie, 1997; Heine, 1997; Licciardi et al., 2004; Owen et al., 2003; Phillips et al., 1996; Porter and Swanson, 1998; Thackray et al., 2004) (Figure 1). These advances occurred at 17 ka, 14 ka, and 10 ka before present (B.P.) and are peculiar because of their timing relative to dated advances elsewhere. The glacial advance at 17 ka B.P. was 4,000 years after the “accepted” Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) at 21 ± 2 ka B.P. (Licciardi et al., 2004) and was followed by two smaller advances at 14 ka and 10 ka B.P. that apparently culminated before and just after the well-documented Younger Dryas world-cooling event at 12.9 ka – 11.6 ka B.P. These advances may be associated with reinvigorated precipitation activity, resulting from increased advection from the Pacific Ocean as the ice sheet retreated north (Thackray et al., 2004) and/or with global cooling triggered by the disruption of the marine thermohaline circulation in the ocean caused by a large discharge of fresh water into the North Atlantic (Heinrich events) (Clark and Bartlein, 1995; Hostetler et al., 2000; Licciardi et al., 2004).

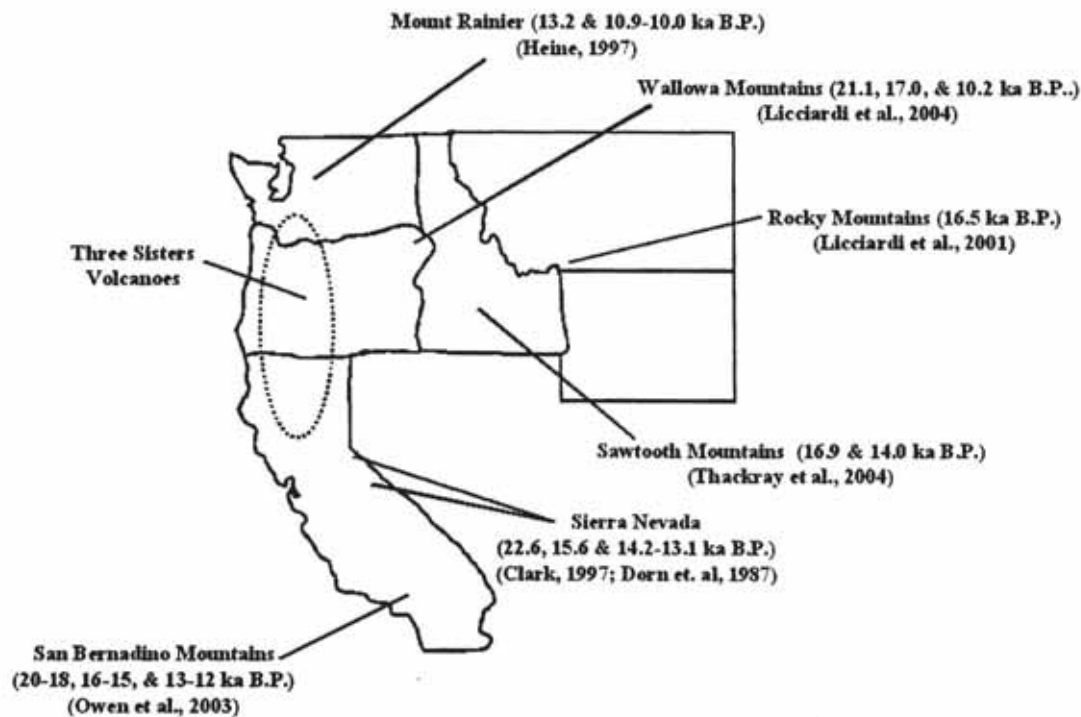


Figure 1: Distribution of recent research on dated glacial maxima in the western United States. The dotted oval represents a geographical hole in glacial database. Numbers at each specific location are dates of glacial extents and are measured in thousands of years before present.

Despite extensive research in the western United States, particularly in the North Cascades and the Sierra Nevada, the glacial record has been studied very little in the Oregon Cascades. Defining the timing and extent of past glacier change in Oregon will help assess if the late Pleistocene to Holocene glaciations were synchronous or varied throughout the western United States. This information can then be used to define the regional pattern of climate change of western North America during the last ~17,000 years.

The Three Sisters volcanoes, including Broken Top mountain, of Central Oregon contain numerous well-preserved lateral and end moraines on their eastern slopes and are considered to be Pleistocene and Holocene in age (Dethier, 1980a, b;

O'Connor et al., 2001; Scott and Gardner, 1992; Scott et al., 1990; Sherrod et al., in press). Access to the eastern side of the mountains and the sparse vegetation cover, relative to the western flanks, makes the area an ideal field site for mapping the glacial features. The work at Three Sisters will contribute to our understanding of the glacial record in the western U.S., particularly at the Pleistocene/Holocene boundary, and will assist in our understanding of both regional and paleoclimate patterns and perhaps global paleoclimate systems.

The goals of this thesis are three fold: to map in detail the glacial deposits at Three Sisters, which will help determine the magnitude of past glacial extents, to date the glacial deposits and place their timing in the context of other advances in the western United States, and to infer past climatic conditions required for the past extents. I will attempt to show that four glacial advances and/or stands occurred at Three Sisters and that some correlate with other advances in the Pacific Northwest while others do not.

1.1 Timing of late Pleistocene and early Holocene glacial advances in the western United States

For consistency, all age dates listed in this thesis are reported in calibrated years before present, whenever possible. If radiocarbon dates from other journals or reports were given in radiocarbon year (^{14}C), they were calibrated to years before present with the CALIB program (Stuiver and Reimer, 1993) using the 2σ confidence interval. These dates are listed with both the calibrated years before present (B.P.) and

the radiocarbon dates (^{14}C) {i.e. 21.5 ka B.P. (18 ^{14}C ka B.P.)}. Surface exposure dates, such as ^{10}Be and ^{36}Cl , are listed in the text as cosmogenic years before present (i.e. 22.2 ka ^{36}Cl) but are assumed to be equivalent to calibrated years before present (B.P.).

Previous work of glacial advances in the western U.S. shows that alpine glaciers advanced during five or six different time intervals between the late Pleistocene (25 ka B.P.) and early Holocene (8 ka B.P.) (Figure 2). The largest and oldest advance considered in this analysis is the last glacial maximum (LGM) at approximately 19 ± 1 ka B.P., based on ^{10}Be and ^{36}Cl radiometric dates, collected from boulders of lateral and end moraines in California and Washington (Table 1) (Owen et al., 2003; Phillips et al., 1996; Porter, 2004). Two dates differ from the 19 ± 1 ka B.P. date, one from organic matter removed from rock varnishes of several moraine boulders at Pine Creek in the eastern Sierra Nevada (22.6 ± 1.1 ka B.P.) ($19,050 \pm 420$ ^{14}C yrs B.P.) (Dorn et al., 1987) and the other from surface exposure dates from moraine boulders taken elsewhere in the Sierras (25 ± 1 ka ^{36}Cl) (Phillips et al., 1996).

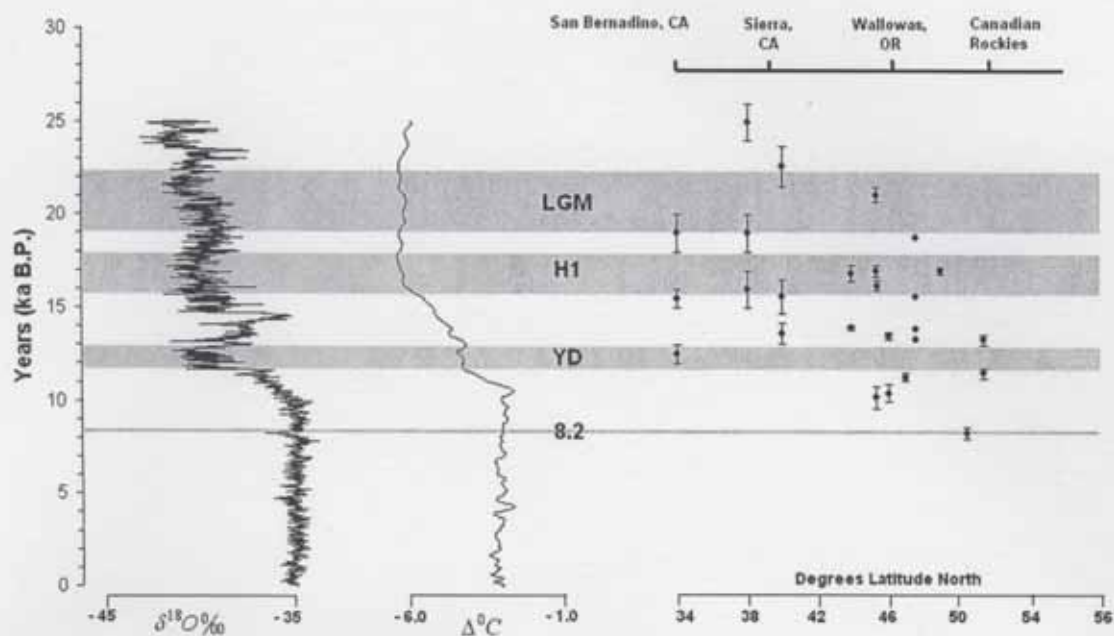


Figure 2: Comparison of glacial advances in the western United States with inferred global air temperatures based on the oxygen isotope curve from the Greenland Ice Sheet Project 2 (GISP2) ice core (Stuiver and Grootes, 2000) and the deuterium curve from the Lake Vostok ice core from Antarctica (Lorius et al., 1985; Sowers et al., 1993). The darkened bars represent global cooling events from the GISP2s ice core (LGM = Last Glacial Maximum, H1 = Heinrich 1 event, YD = Younger Dryas, and 8.2 = 8.2 ka cooling event).

Table 1: Summary of glacial advances in western North America. LGM is the Last Glacial Maximum; H1 is the Heinrich 1 event; YD is the Younger Dryas; and 8.2 is the 8.2 ka cooling.

Location	Timing of Glacial Extents (ka B.P.)				Dating Techniques		Reference
	LGM	H1	pre-YD	YD	post-YD	8.2	
Canadian Rockies, Alberta			13.3 ± 0.3	11.5 ± 0.3			Reasoner et al., 1994
Coast Mountains, B.C.						8.3 ± 0.3	Menounos et al., 2004
Puget Sound, WA		~17.0					Porter and Swanson 1998
Icicle Creek, WA	~18.8	~15.6	~13.9 & 13.3				Porter, 2004
Mt. Rainier, WA		~13.2			10.4 ± 0.5		Heine, 1997
Enchantment Lakes, WA				>11.3			Bilderback, 2004
Sawtooth Mountains, ID		16.9 ± 0.4	13.9 ± 0.1				Thackray et al., 2004
Rocky Mountains, MT		16.2 ± 0.3					³ He & ¹⁰ Be Licciardi et al., 2001
Sierra Nevada, CA	25 ± 1.0 19 ± 1.0	16 ± 1.0					Phillips et al., 1996
	22.6 ± 1.1	15.6 ± 0.9	13.7 ± 0.6				Clark, 1997 & Dorn et al., 1987
San Bernardino, CA	19 ± 1.0	15.5 ± 0.5		12.5 ± 0.5			Owen et al., 2003
Willowa Mountains, OR		17 ± 0.3			10.2 ± 0.6		Licciardi et al., 2004

A second alpine advance followed 3,500 years later during the break up of the Laurentide Ice Sheet in the North Atlantic. This second advance, at $\sim 16.5 \pm 1$ ka B.P., has been linked to global cooling associated with the Heinrich I event (~ 17 ka B.P.) in the North Atlantic that weakened thermohaline circulation in the world's oceans (Clark and Bartlein, 1995; Licciardi et al., 2004). Porter and Swanson (1998) and Thackray et al. (2004) suggested that reinvigorated moisture transport from the Pacific Ocean that was previously weakened by the Cordilleran and Laurentide ice sheets could have also caused this advance. Evidence of the Heinrich I advance has come from lake cores and cosmogenic dates from moraine boulders collected in Washington, Oregon, Montana, and California (Table 1) (Dorn et al., 1987; Licciardi et al., 2004; Licciardi et al., 2001; Owen et al., 2003; Phillips et al., 1996; Porter, 2004; Thackray et al., 2004).

The next three glacial advances occurred at the end of the Pleistocene or early Holocene. Lake cores and cosmogenic dates from Canada, Washington, Idaho, and California (Clark, 1997; Clark and Gillespie, 1997; Porter, 2004; Stuiver and Reimer, 1993; Thackray et al., 2004) stand as lines of evidence of the pre-YD advances, while a lake core in Washington (Heine, 1997) and cosmogenic dates from Oregon (Licciardi et al., 2004) infer a post-YD advance of the alpine glaciers (Table 1). However, despite the majority of the advances occurring pre- or post- YD, other advances in Canada, Washington, and California (Bilderback, 2004; Owen et al., 2003; Stuiver and Reimer, 1993) suggest a YD advance (Table 1), thus implying synchronicity with glacial advances recorded in Europe (Berghlund, 1979; Larsen et al.,

1984; Mangerud, 1987) and Greenland (Stuiver and Grootes, 2000). The final advance during the early Holocene occurred near 8,200 years B.P. and was recorded in the Coast Mountains of British Columbia (Menounos et al., 2004). Whether this advance is exclusive to this single locality in Canada or appears elsewhere in western North America still remains to be tested.

1.2 Field Site

1.2.1 Field Area:

The Three Sisters mountains are composite lava cones located in the Southern Cascades of central Oregon (44°08' N, 121°47' W) (Figure 3 - Figure 6). With a maximum elevation of nearly 3150 m, six major glaciers (Collier, Diller, Hayden, Lost Creek, Prouty, and Renfrew) currently survive on the mountains. These glaciers cover an area of 4.5 km² with a total volume of 0.09 km³ (Driedger and Kennard, 1986). Separation and White Branch creeks drain the majority of the glaciers on the west side (e.g. Collier, Lost Creek, and Renfrew) into the McKenzie River. Glaciers on the eastern side (e.g. Diller, Hayden, and Prouty) drain to Squaw and Fall creeks, empty into Sparks Lake, and, eventually, run into the Deschutes River (Driedger and Kennard, 1986).

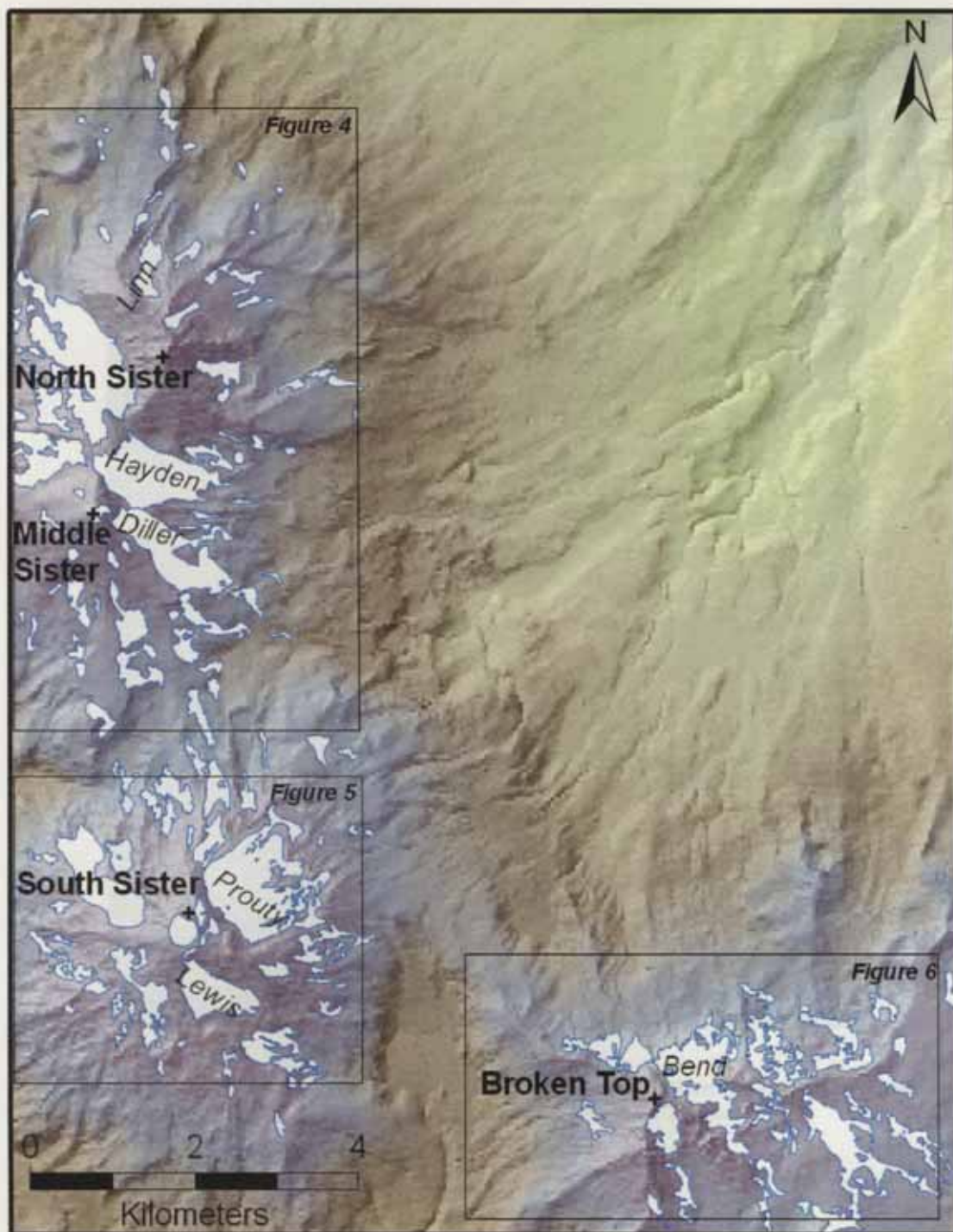


Figure 3: Location map of Three Sisters volcanic center and Broken Top mountain. Boxes depict detailed location maps for Figures 4 – 6.

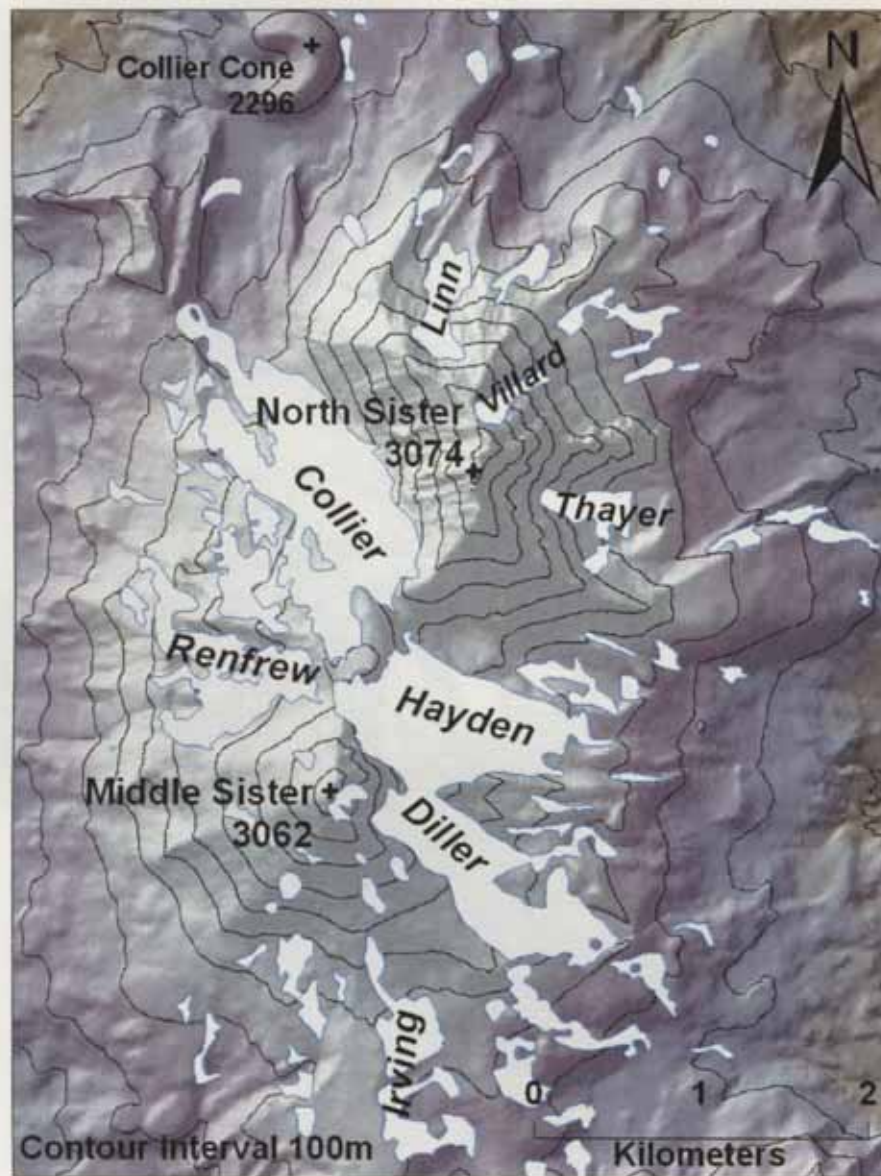


Figure 4: Digital elevation map with 100 m contours displaying present glaciers, snowfields and notable topographic features at North and Middle Sister, Oregon Cascades.



Figure 5: Digital elevation map with 100 m contours displaying present glaciers, snowfields and notable topographic features at South Sister, Oregon Cascades.

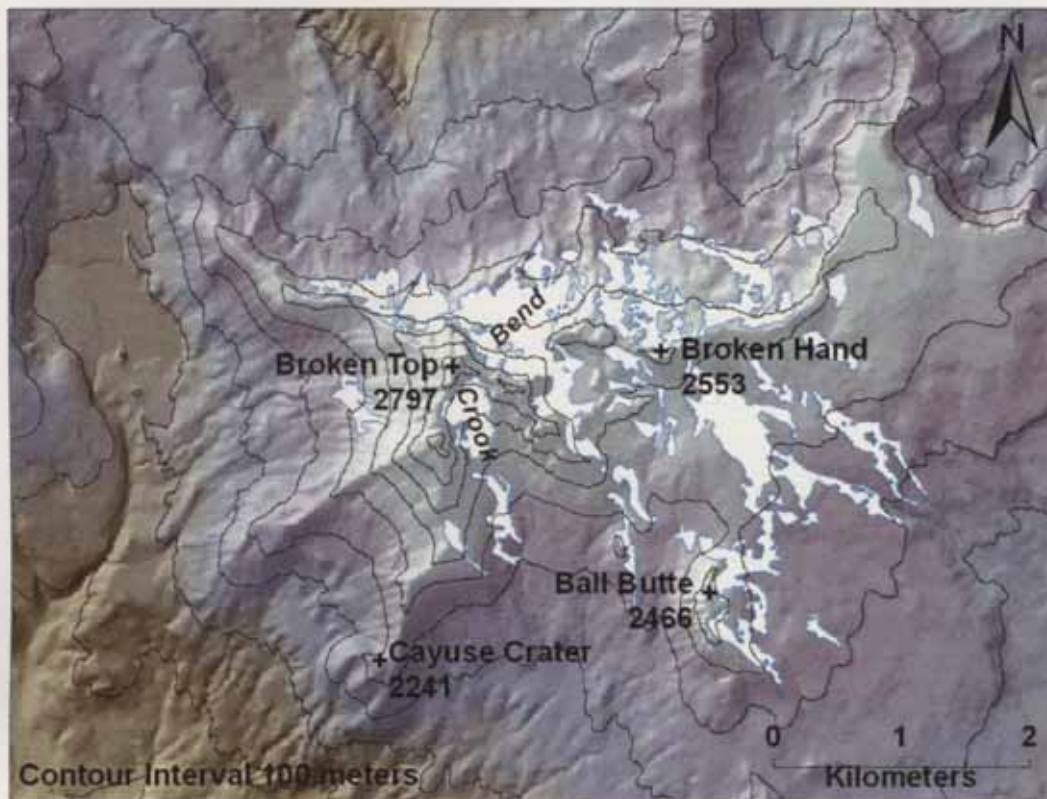


Figure 6: Digital elevation map with 100 m contours displaying present glaciers, snowfields and notable topographic features at Broken Top mountain located approximately 3 km east of South Sister.

1.2.2 Geologic Setting of Three Sisters Volcanoes:

The age of the Three Sisters volcanic center is not well constrained, but its formation is thought to be restricted to the Pleistocene (Scott and Gardner, 1992). North Sister is the oldest volcano of the Three Sisters and is a basaltic-andesite lava cone overlying an older, basaltic shield volcano. South Sister is the youngest of the three composite volcanoes and is composed of andesite, dacite, and small rhyodacite flows (Taylor, 1990). The most recent summit eruption on South Sister occurred during the latest Pleistocene, when the mountain was still covered by a regional ice

cap (Driedger and Kennard, 1986; Scott, 1977). Flank eruptions of basaltic-andesite have occurred on South Sister between 6 and 15 ka B.P. and rhyodacite approximately 1,700 to 2,100 (2,000 to 2,300 ^{14}C yr B.P.) years ago on both the south and northeast sides (Scott, 1987; Scott and Gardner, 1992). The age of Middle Sister is between its two “siblings” and has a diverse composition similar to both South and North Sisters, ranging from basaltic-andesite to rhyolite (Scott and Gardner, 1992; Taylor, 1990).

Because there has been little detailed mapping of the glacial deposits at Three Sisters, the glacial history has been inferred based on work by Scott (1974; 1977) in the adjacent Metolius River area. On the eastern slopes of Mount Jefferson, Mount Washington and Three Finger Jack, Scott (1974; 1977) mapped glacial deposits of the late Pleistocene and Holocene. These deposits are separated into the Abbott Butte, Jack Creek, Cabot Creek and Jefferson Park Formations, which represent five glacial advances. The oldest formation is the Abbott Butte, which consists of weathered till and thick, well-developed soils, and is thought to characterize several glacial advances between 200 and 900 ka B.P. (Scott, 1977). The Jack Creek glaciation is the oldest glacial event with preserved moraines and may be correlative with the Hayden Creek glaciation in Washington, which occurred approximately 140,000 years ago (Sherrod et al., in press). The Cabot Creek glaciation followed during the latest Pleistocene (Scott, 1977) and is divided into the older Suttle Lake and younger Canyon Creek advances. The Suttle Lake advance may be correlative with the Evans Creek stade of the Fraser glaciation in Washington (~20 ka B.P.), while the Canyon Creek stade may be correlative with the Hyak advance (11.0 – 12.5 ka B.P.) (Porter et al., 1983). The

Jefferson Park event is separated into two phases and is the youngest advance described by Scott (1977). The two glacial advances were restricted to cirques valleys on both Mount Jefferson and Three Finger Jack and are most likely Neoglacial advances, based on their sharp moraine crests and lack of soil development (Scott, 1977).

Work at the Three Sisters by Dethier (1980a; 1980b) and O'Connor et al. (2001) have differentiated at least three Neoglacial age deposits. O'Connor et al. (2001) describes a Little Ice Age advance at Three Sisters that reached its maximum extent roughly 100 – 300 yrs. B.P. while the reconnaissance study at South Sister and Broken Top by Dethier (1980a; 1980b) revealed two minor Neoglacial advances or stands occurring between 2.1 and 7.7 ka B.P., which may correlate with the advances in the Metolius River area. Additional work by Sherrod et al. (in press) and Scott and Gardner (1990) have differentiated some late Pleistocene and Holocene deposits that also seem to correlate with the drifts at Mount Jefferson and Washington. My remapping of the glacial deposits at Three Sisters and Broken Top will help refine previous work by Dethier (1980a; 1980b), Taylor et al. (1987), Taylor (1990), Scott and Gardner (1992), O'Connor et al. (2001), and Sherrod et al. (in press).

Chapter 2: Glacial Deposits and Stratigraphic Sections

2.1 Glacial Deposit Mapping

2.1.1 Methods:

To better identify the glacial deposits and associated glacial landforms on the eastern flanks of the Three Sisters volcanoes and the northern flank of Broken Top mountain in the Three Sisters Wilderness area of central Oregon, I focused my mapping efforts on the deposits associated with Linn, Hayden, Diller, Prouty, Lewis, and Bend glaciers. Field mapping was compiled on 1:24,000 scale USGS topographic quadrangle maps, and refined in the office using aerial photographs and digital pictures from the field. To temporally separate the moraine deposits, I used their stratigraphic position, plant/tree/lichen cover, shape and sharpness of crests, height, and surface deposits of tephra. The four most prominent tephra encountered were the Collier Cone, Devil's Hill, Rock Mesa, and Mount Mazama deposits. The Collier Cone tephra is a basaltic tephra, which erupted from Collier Cone (on the northern flank of North Sister) approximately 1300 to 1700 yrs. B.P. (1600 ± 100 ^{14}C yr B.P.) (Sherrod et al., in press). Both the Devil's Hill and the Rock Mesa are local rhyolitic tephra from numerous vents on South Sister that were deposited in two episodes between 1700 and 2500 yrs B.P. (2000-2300 ^{14}C yrs B.P.) (Scott, 1987). Because the Rock Mesa and Devil's Hill tephra are so similar in appearance and mineralogy, as well as age, I did not try to differentiate between the two. The Mazama tephra originated from Mount Mazama, the volcanic peak that once occupied present-day

Crater Lake (~120 km southeast of the Three Sisters). The Mazama tephra is approximately 7.7 ka yrs B.P. (6845 ± 50 ^{14}C yrs B.P.) (Bacon, 1983) and provides a good age marker because of its regional extent and distinctive character of coarse, yellow ash with fine lapilli (Scott et al., 1990).

2.1.2 Results: Moraine Deposits:

Four or five moraine sets off of the eastern flanks of the Three Sisters record varying positions of the glaciers during the last 14 ka B.P. (Table 2). The innermost moraines are approximately 60 m high and are sharp-crested with little to no vegetation on their slopes (Figure 7 and Figure 8). Moraine material ranges from coarse silt (0.02 mm) to boulders (3 m), has nearly no soil development, and exhibit high erosion rates at the crests and along the flanks. These moraines likely record a Little Ice Age (LIA) advance (150-250 yrs. B.P.) of the glaciers, based on local tree ring chronologies and their stratigraphic position and morphology (O'Connor et al., 2001).

Table 2: Moraine characteristics on the eastern slopes of the Three Sisters and the northern slope of Broken Top mountain. DHRM is Devil's Hill / Rock Mesa tephra. MZ is Mazama tephra.

	Morphology	Soil Thickness	Vegetation Cover	Elevation	Tephra Cover
Little Ice Age	60 m tall	0 - 5 cm	< 5%	2200 - 2600 m	None
Late-Neoglacial	20 - 30 m tall	0 - 5 cm	5 - 10%	2200 - 2300 m	DHRM
Early-Neoglacial	15 - 30 m tall	30 - 45 cm	10 - 25%	2100 - 2300 m	DHRM
Fountonnor	10 - 20 m tall	> 45 cm	> 25%	2000 - 2100 m	DHRM, MZ



Figure 7: Aerial photograph of North Sister. The black lines outline the area of the photograph from Figure 8. The camera symbol indicates the location of the picture and the arrows depict moraines crests downslope of Linn glacier.

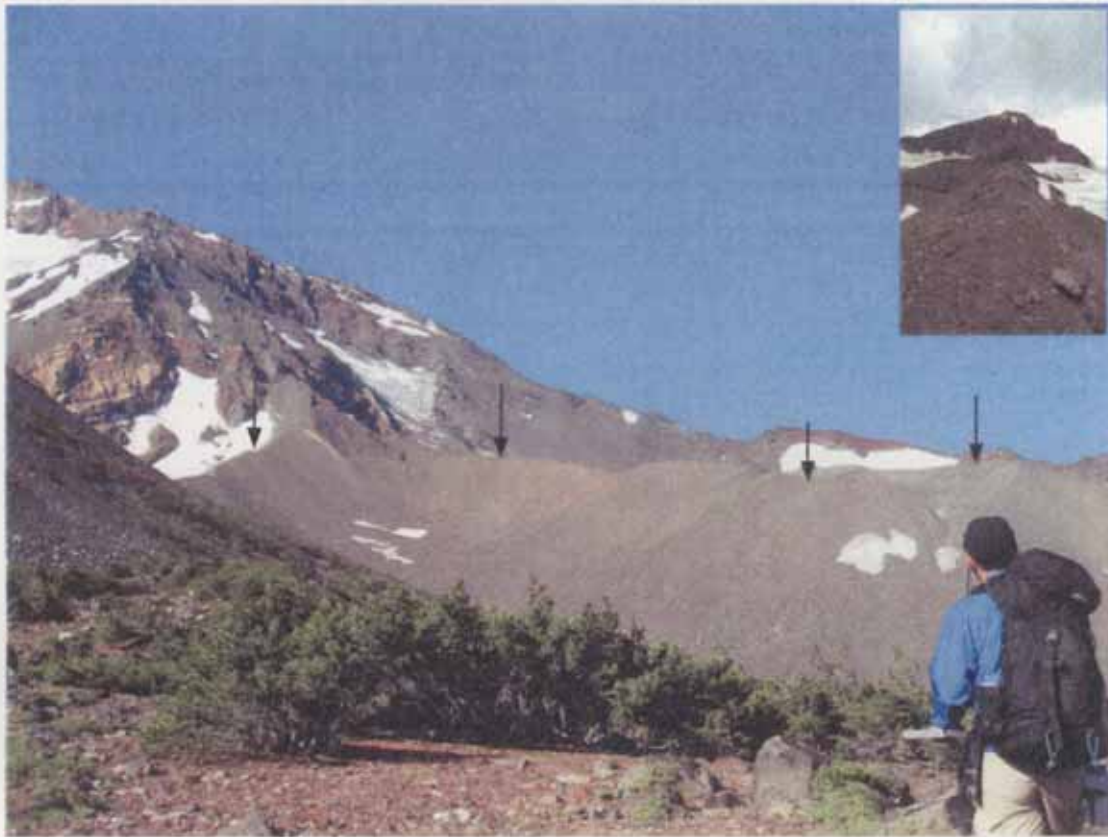


Figure 8: Northeast flank of North Sister with LIA moraines from Linn glacier. For scale, the moraines are approximately 60 m in height. Arrows depict the moraine crests. Picture in upper right-hand corner is a close-up of a LIA moraine. Andy Ulrich in foreground.

Locally, less than 100 m downslope from these moraines, a second set of mostly lateral moraines are found at South and Middle Sister and Broken Top. These moraines are 20 – 30 m tall and have steep rounded crests with small shrubs and lichen growing on their slopes (Figure 9 and Figure 10). The moraine material ranges from coarse silt (0.02 mm) to boulders (4 m), has some soil development (<5 cm), and is generally stable along the crests but unstable along the steeper flanks. These Late-Neoglacial moraines are blanketed with the Devil's Hill / Rock Mesa tephra on their

slopes ($\sim 2100 \pm 400$ yrs. B.P.) but are not covered with the Mazama tephra (~ 7.7 ka yrs. B.P.).

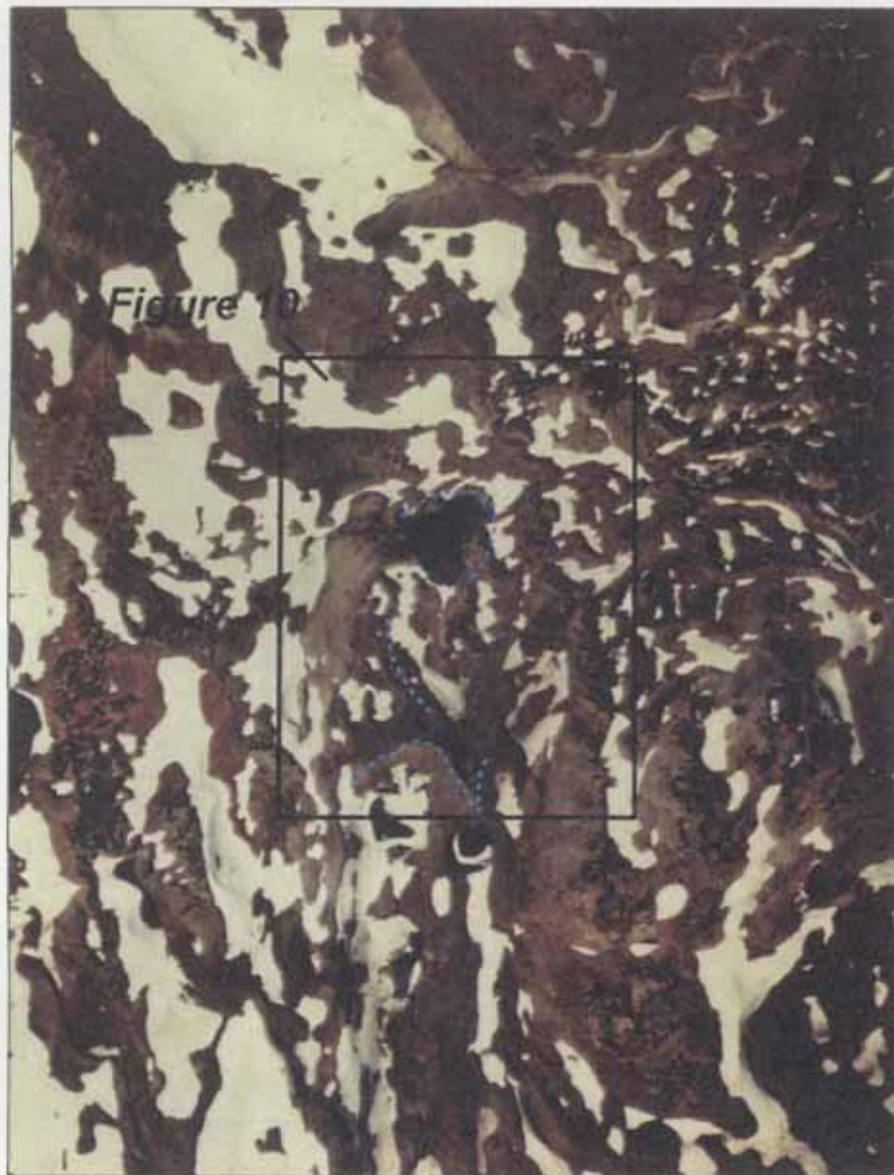


Figure 9: Aerial photograph between Middle and South Sister. The black lines outline the area of the photograph from Figure 10. The camera symbol indicates the location of the picture and the dashed lines depict moraines crests.



Figure 10: Camp Lake between South and Middle Sisters with LIA, Late-Neoglacial, and Fountonnor moraines extending down the slopes from Carver glacier. Notice differences in vegetation cover and moraine positions. Also, notice that Early-Neoglacial moraines are absent in this moraine set. For scale, the LIA moraines are 60 m high and the Fountonnor moraines are ~5 m. Picture in upper right-hand corner is a close-up of a Late-Neoglacial moraine.

Beyond these moraines, a third set exists that is 200-600 m downslope of the modern glacier termini. This set is 15 – 30 m tall and the moraines are nearly flat-crested, with small trees/shrubs and lichen growing on their slopes (Figure 11 and Figure 12). Moraine material ranges from fine silt (0.01 mm) to boulder (1 m), has more soil development than the younger moraines (30-45 cm), and is more stable than the younger moraines along the crests and flanks. These Early-Neoglacial moraines

are also blanketed with the Devil's Hill / Rock Mesa tephra on their slopes ($\sim 2100 \pm 400$ yrs. B.P.) and lack Mazama tephra (7.7 ka yrs. B.P.) (Dethier, 1980a, b).



Figure 11: Aerial photograph for Middle Sister. The black lines outline the area of the photograph from Figure 12 and 13. The camera symbol indicates the location of the picture and the dashed lines depict moraine crests.



Figure 12: East flank of Middle Sister displaying an Early-Neoglacial end moraine. Notice vegetation cover on moraine flanks and crest. For scale, the moraine is approximately 30 m high. Pictures in upper right-hand corner are close-ups of an Early-Neoglacial moraine.

A fourth set of moraines 400-900 m downslope of the modern glacier termini pre-date ~7.7 ka yrs. B.P., based on the surficial Mazama ash deposit. Devil's Hill / Rock Mesa tephra (~ 2100 ± 400 yrs. B.P.) was also present on the surface of the moraines. These moraines are more weathered and have more soil development (> 45 cm) than the moraines previously described. These moraines are 10-20 m tall, with nearly flat crests and 1 – 3 m tall shrubs and trees on their crests and flanks (Figure 10, Figure 11 and Figure 13). The moraine material ranges from fine silt (0.01 mm) to boulders (1 m), has medium soil development (5-35 cm), and is generally stable along

crests and slopes. In the following text, I refer to these moraines as the Fountonnor (fown-tōn-er) moraine set, to simplify writing within this paper.

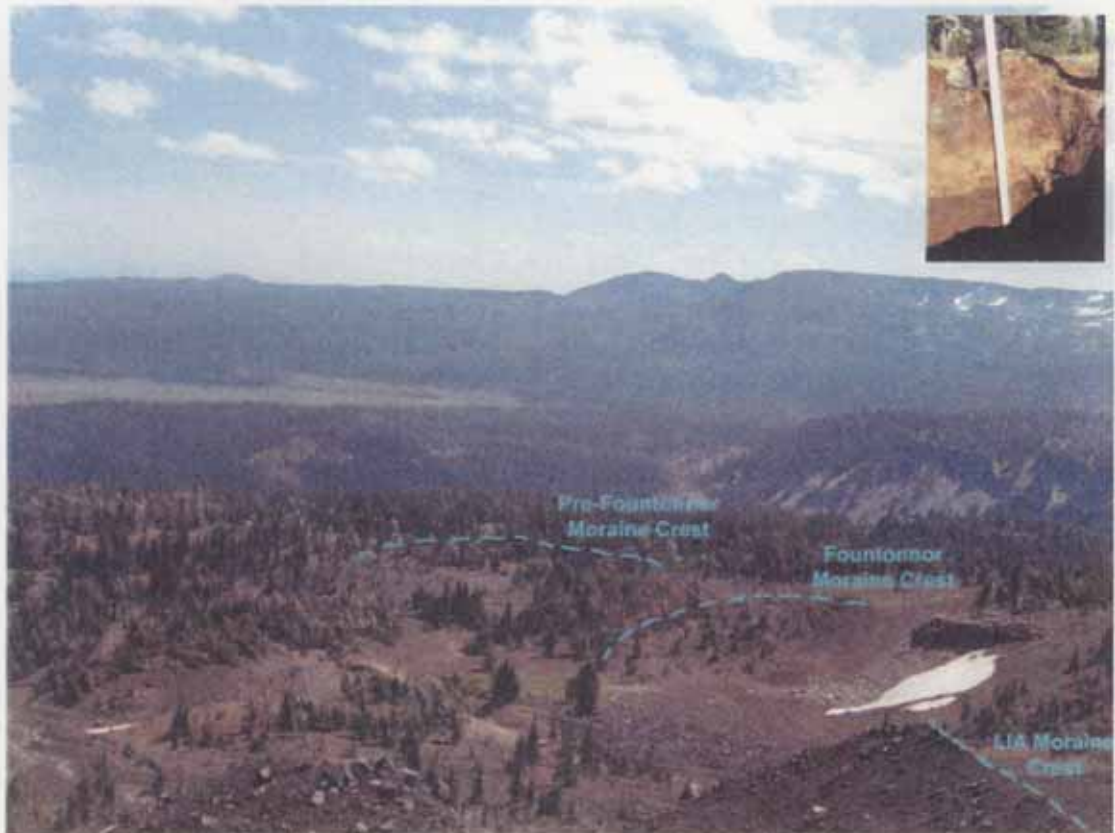


Figure 13: East flank of Middle Sister with LIA, Fountonnor, and pre-Fountonnor moraines extending down the slopes from Diller Glacier. Notice the difference in vegetation cover and deflated moraine heights between the three moraine sets. For scale, the LIA moraines are 60 m high while the Fountonnor moraine is ~20 m. Picture in upper right-hand corner is a close-up of a Fountonnor moraine.

A fifth and perhaps sixth set of moraines exists 700-1500 m downslope of the modern glacier termini. These moraines are more weathered than all the previous moraines, with more forest cover on their slopes. Their crests are < 5 m tall and are subtle in both the field and aerial photographs (Figure 11 and Figure 13). The moraine

material ranges from clay (0.05 mm) to boulder (4 m) in size, has substantial soil development (> 50 cm), and is the most stabilized, due to the abundant tree and vegetation cover. These moraines are overlain by Mazama and Devil's Hill / Rock Mesa tephra. Because detailed mapping and stratigraphic analysis of these moraines is incomplete, and are not a major focus in this thesis, they will not be discussed in detail within this thesis.

2.1.3 Glacial Deposit Maps:

The glacial deposits corresponding to the LIA, Late- and Early-Neoglacial (pre-LIA and post-Mazama) and Fountonnor (pre-Mazama) moraines were mapped for the eastern flanks of the Three Sisters and the north flank of Broken Top Mountain (Figure 15 - Figure 18). The LIA and some Late-Neoglacial moraines were originally mapped by O'Connor et al. (2001). The Early-Neoglacial and Fountonnor moraines, which were crudely mapped and not separated into distinct glacial advances/stands by Taylor (1987), Scott and Gardner (1992), and Sherrod et al. (in press) but mapped in detail at Broken Top and parts of South Sister by Dethier (1980a; 1980b), were also further revised. The Fountonnor and Early-Neoglacial deposits corresponding to present Hayden, Diller, Prouty, and Bend glaciers were mapped more completely than the other glaciers on the eastern flanks and have been used to infer the glacial advances/stands for other locations in the Three Sisters study area.

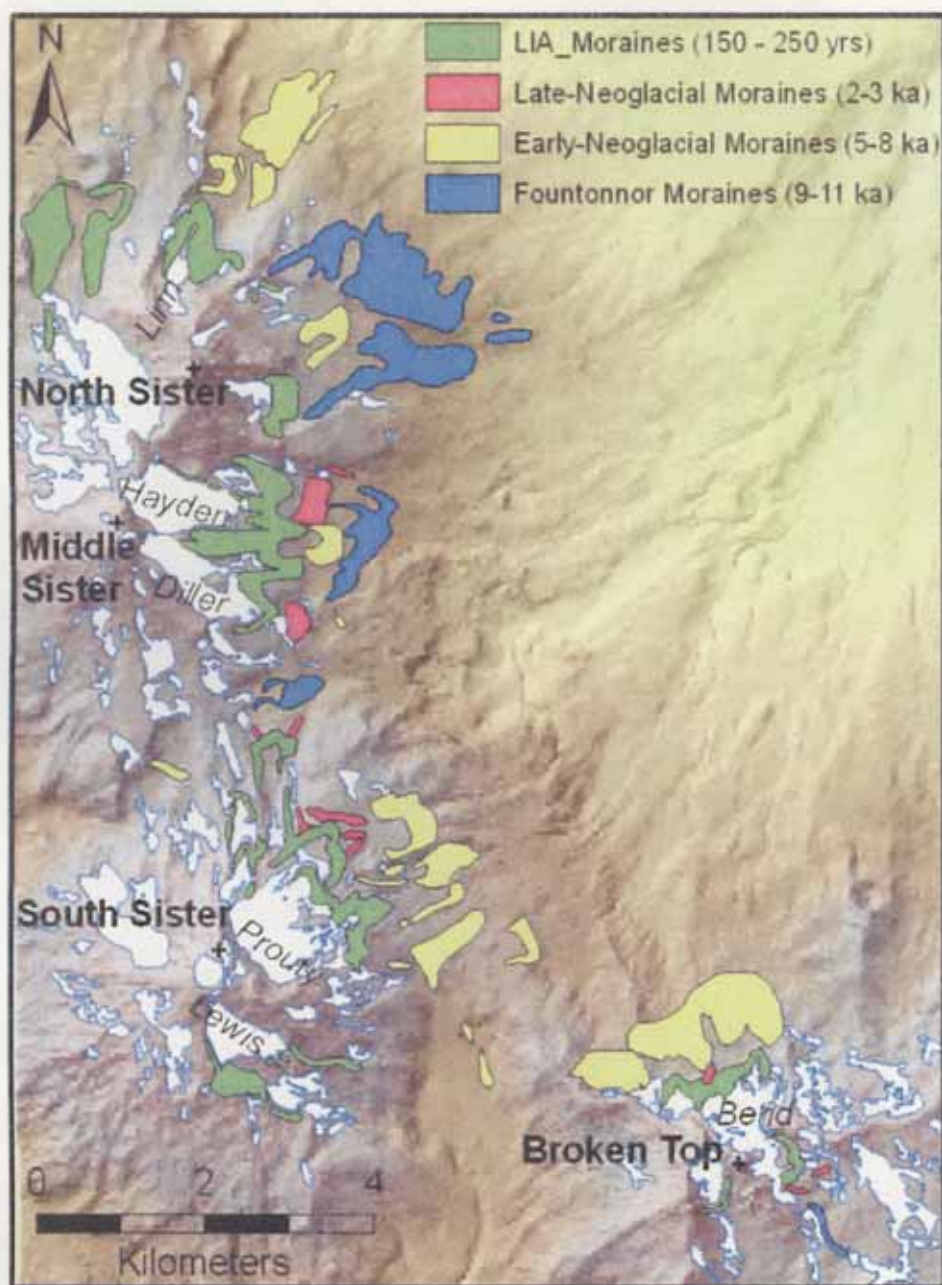


Figure 14: Geomorphologic map of glacial deposits and timing of glacial advances/stands for the Three Sisters and Broken Top mountain.

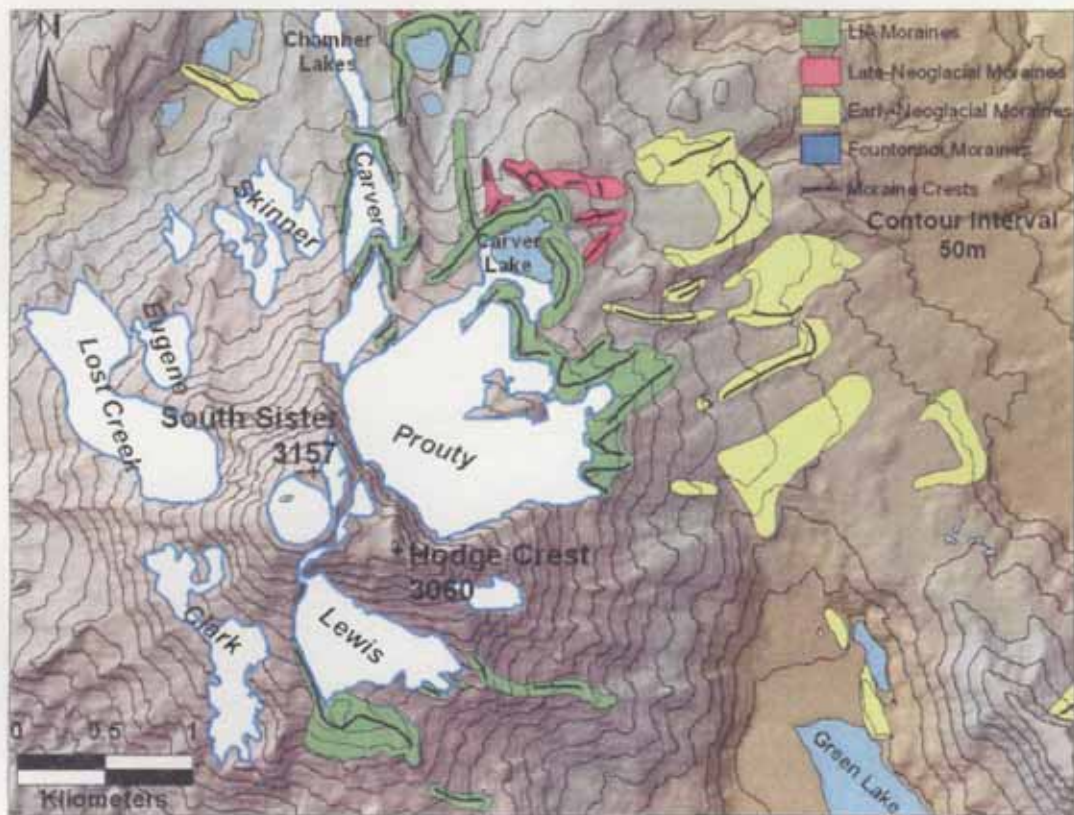


Figure 15: Geomorphic map of South Sister including current glaciers and snowfields, glacial deposits, and moraine crests on the south, east, and north flanks. Contour interval is 50 m.

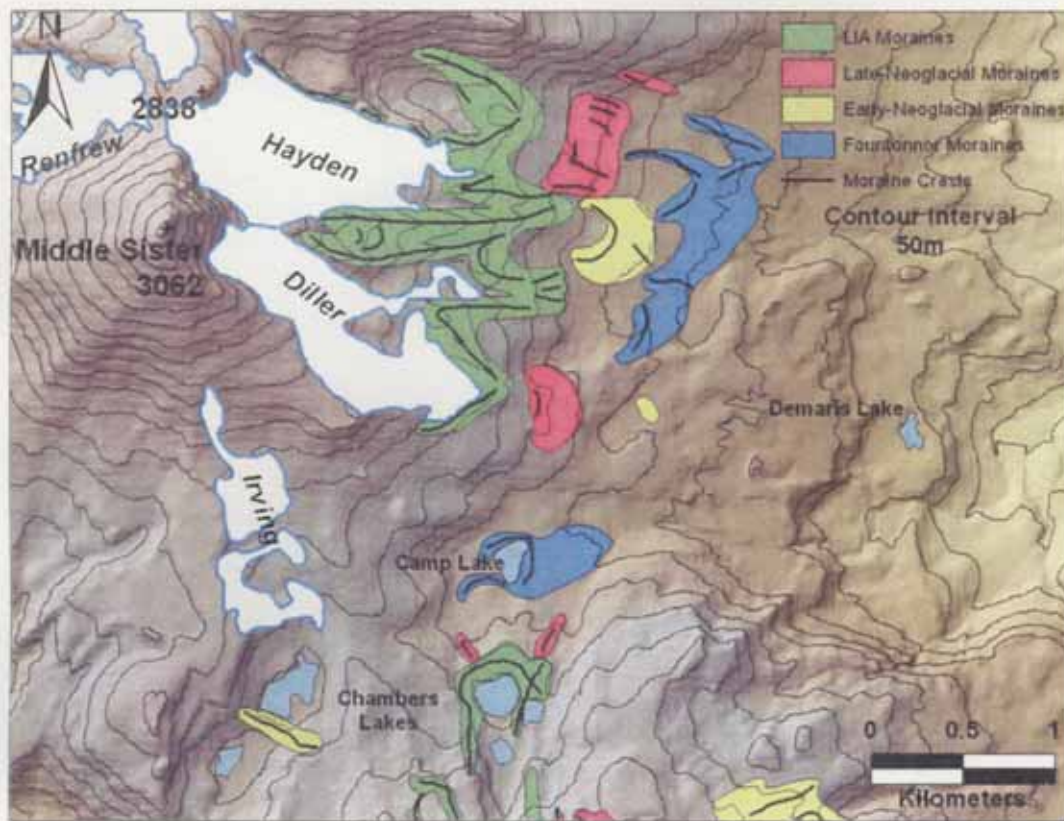


Figure 16: Geomorphic map of Middle Sister including current glaciers and snowfields, glacial deposits, and moraine crests on the south and east flanks. Contour interval is 50 m.

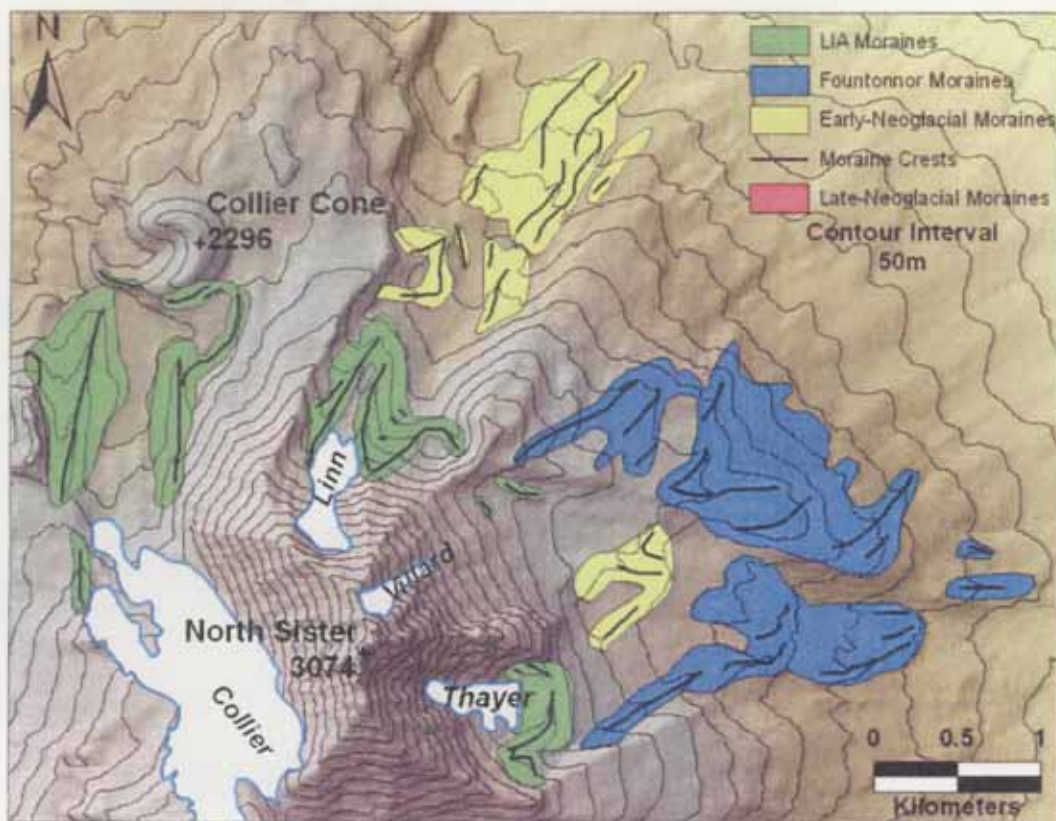


Figure 17: Geomorphic map of North Sister including current glaciers and snowfields, glacial deposits, and moraine crests on the east and north flanks. Contour interval is 50 m.

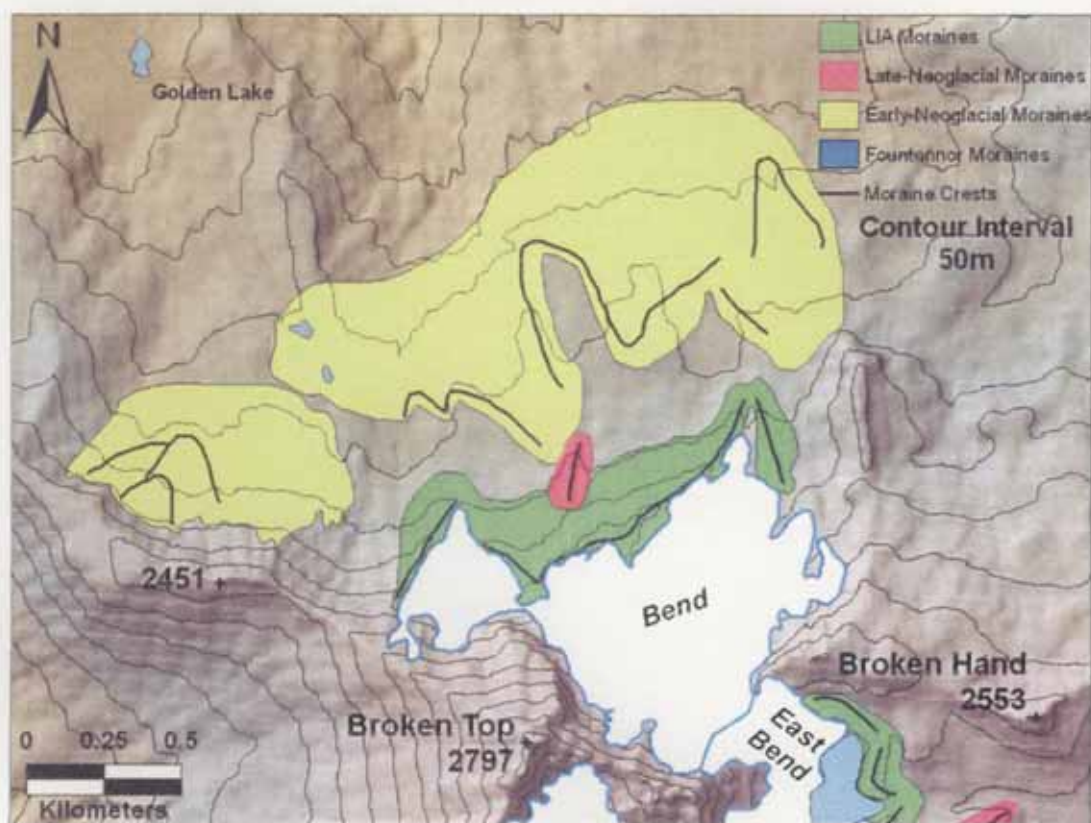


Figure 18: Geomorphic map of Broken Top including current glaciers and snowfields, glacial deposits, and moraine crests on the north and south flanks. Contour interval is 50 m.

2.2 Chronology

2.2.1 Methods:

The stratigraphy and sedimentology of the glacial deposits at the Three Sisters and Broken Top were interpreted from 8 auger holes, from stream cutbank exposures along the North Fork of Squaw Creek, and from a sediment core from Camp Lake, located between Middle and South Sisters. The collection sites were recorded on USGS topographic 7.5' quadrangle maps and the auger holes were located with a Garmin® global positioning system (eTrex Legend), with an error of ± 15 m. The stratigraphy was described in the field, and samples were collected and stored in cotton bags labeled with site location, sample number, date, and a brief description of notable, nearby landmarks. Organic material and organic-rich deposits collected at the sites were stored in plastic sample bags in the field, frozen or refrigerated upon return to the laboratory, and finally thawed, dried, and analyzed. Lake sediment cores were collected and stored in steel tubes in the field. After returning from the field, the lake cores were removed from the metal tubes, encased in plastic kitchen wrap, and placed into split PVC pipes for storage. The cores were then refrigerated at 4-8°C until they were finally split, photographed, analyzed, and sampled. Half of each core was archived and stored in a refrigerator at the same temperature.

Auger sites were chosen to maximize the likelihood of obtaining dateable material. The majority of the sites chosen for augering were in bogs, meadows, and other flat areas adjacent to the glacial deposits. These bogs and meadows probably are remains of former moraine-dammed lakes directly fed by the pre-existing glaciers,

similar to present day Camp Lake, where the lake core was recovered (Figure 16). By assuming a simplified depositional environment at these moraine-dammed lakes (Figure 19), I could infer a minimum and maximum age of the glacial deposits.

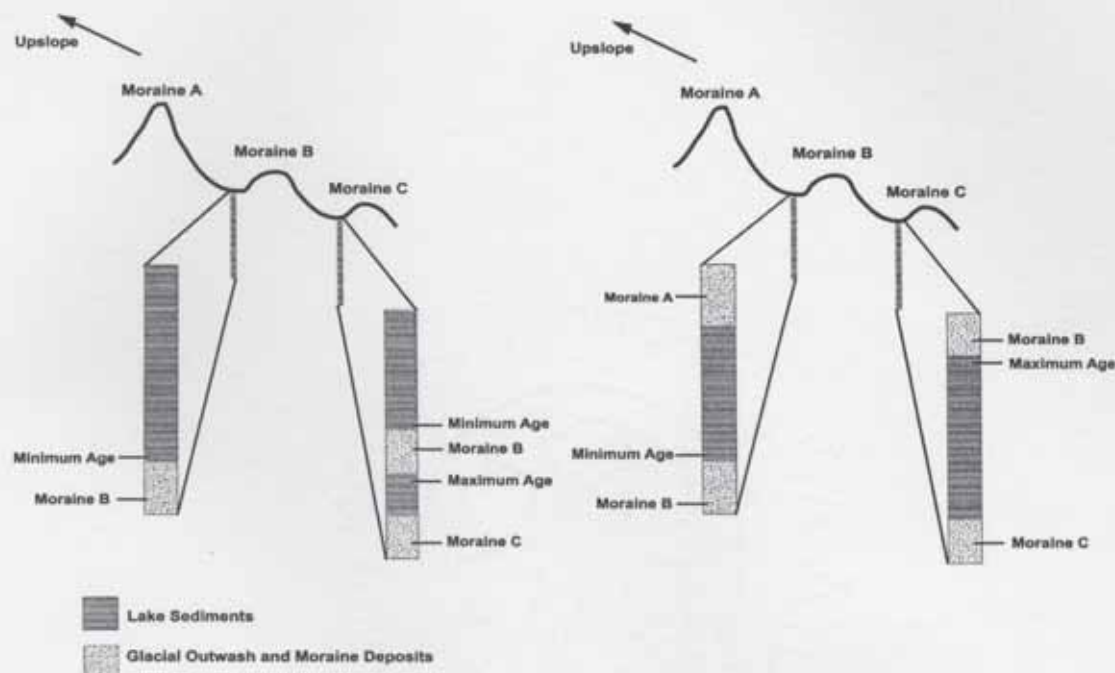


Figure 19: Schematic of two scenarios of a simplified depositional environment associated with two moraine-dammed lakes (adapted from Heine, 1997). In the left scenario, lake sediments that are directly upslope of the moraines are at or near the surface. Lake sediment collected behind moraines B and C are easily obtained and a minimum date of the moraine's deposition can be established. Lake sediments upslope of moraine C can also give bracketing dates of moraine B's deposition, assuming the glacial outwash associated with moraine B can be penetrated. In the right scenario, outwash and morainal material directly upslope of the moraines is at or near the surface. In this situation, lake sediment samples collected behind both moraine B and C cannot be obtained because outwash from the upslope moraines is typically too coarse to penetrate.

Sediment cores were collected from Camp Lake during April of 2005, while the lake was still frozen, so the ice could act as a platform for coring. The cores were obtained using a Livingston Corer, provided and operated by Dr. Doug Clark and Ms. Niki Bowerman of Western Washington University (Figure 20). The corer had a 1m

long, 5cm diameter, stainless steel core barrel with a piston inside. The corer was connected to the surface by a series of magnesium-zircon core rods and the piston was connected with a thin steel cable. The magnesium-zircon core rods were used to drive the core barrels into the sediment in 1m increments. As the corers were driven into the lake sediments, the piston was held in place at the top of the barrel by the steel cable. This created a vacuum in the barrel and held the sediments in place during extraction. Once the steel barrel was full, the core barrel was brought to the surface, switched with a new barrel, and the procedure was repeated until the corer hit refusal within the sediments.

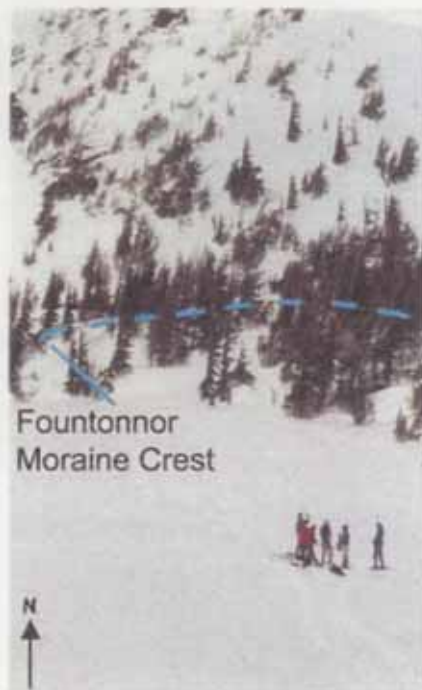


Figure 20: Lake coring photographs from Camp Lake during April of 2005. Doug Clark and Niki Bowerman of Western Washington University shown operating the Livingston corer.

Radiocarbon dates for the collected organic material were analyzed by BETA Analytic Inc. Radiocarbon ages were calibrated using the CALIB program (Stuiver and Reimer, 1993) and were reported using the 2σ confidence interval. Tephra

deposits collected from the auger pits and river exposures were identified on the basis of descriptions by Scott (1987) and Scott et al. (1990).

2.2.2 Auger Pit and River Exposure Stratigraphy:

Auger cores were typically 100 cm deep with the modern soil comprising the first 5-30 cm and the rest of the core consisting of sand to gravel sized outwash (Figure 21). The cores typically contained no organic materials and were almost always underlain by impenetrable gravel and cobble-sized glacial outwash or moraine deposits. Tephra found in the cores were either from the local South Sister vents ($\sim 2100 \pm 400$ yrs. B.P.) or from the ancient Mount Mazama eruption (~ 7.7 ka yrs. B.P.). The stratigraphy from these cores follows the idealized depositional environment from the left scenario of Figure 19, where an impenetrable cobble layer limited the depth of each core. The only exception was at Site 18, where the core was limited by the collapsing core walls. The majority of the sediments collected from these cores were sand to gravel in size. These sediments were likely glacial outwash and alluvial deposits from the LIA and modern glaciers.

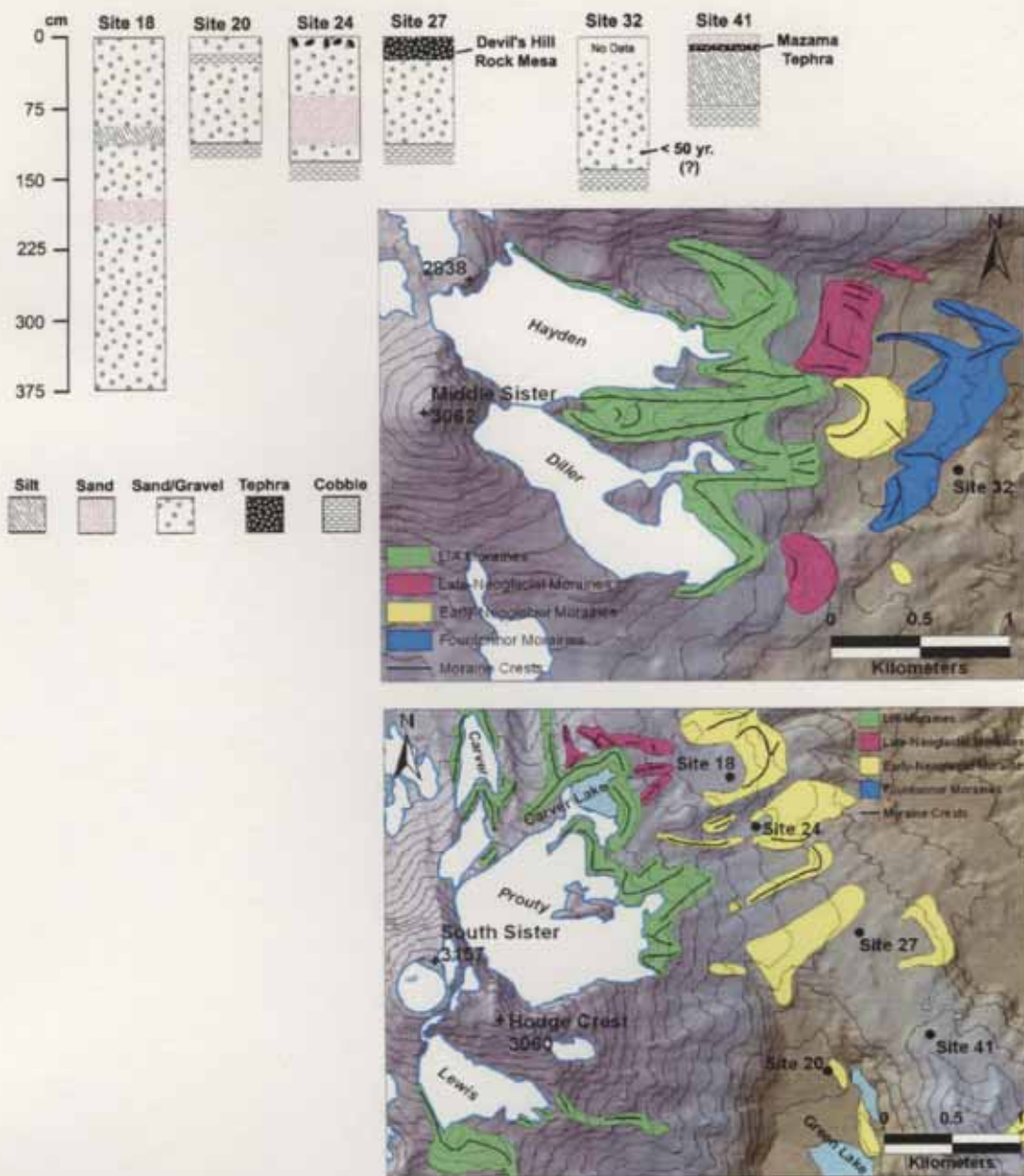


Figure 21: Stratigraphic columns from six auger cores recorded near South and Middle Sisters. No organic rich lake deposits were found in these cores. Detailed stratigraphic sections of these cores are in Appendix.

The auger cores from Sites 16 and 43, and the river exposures of the North Fork of Squaw Creek, were deeper and revealed more of the stratigraphy than the other cores (Figure 22). The auger cores were 150 to 330 cm deep, with silt- to clay-sized particles making up the bulk of the core sediments. The stratigraphy from these auger cores follows the idealized depositional environment from the right schematic of Figure 19, where the cores were far enough away from the glacial outwash of the younger moraines that the lake sediments could be sampled.

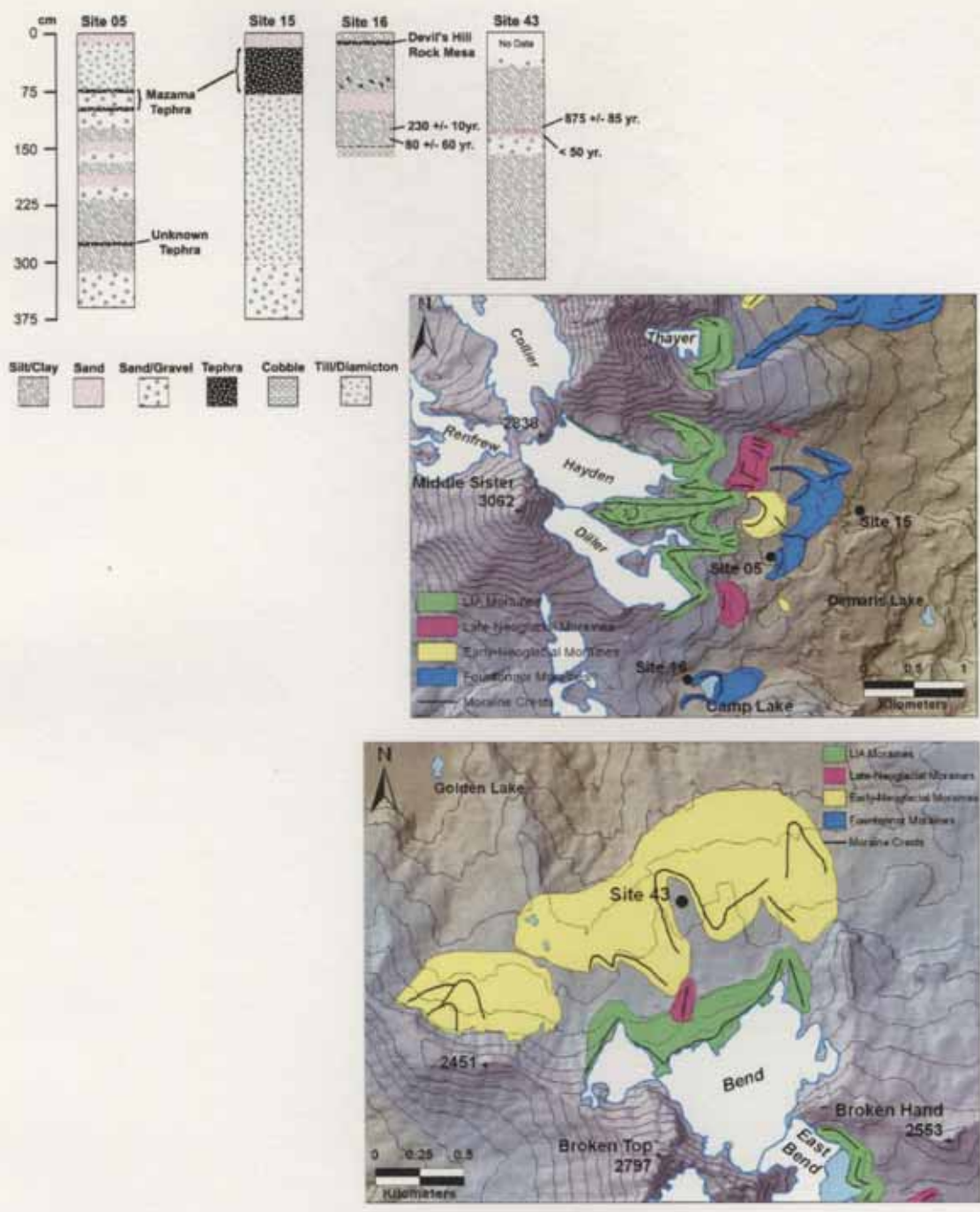


Figure 22: Stratigraphic columns from two auger cores (Sites 16 & 43) and river exposures (Sites 05 & 15) recorded near Middle Sister and Broken Top Mountain. The only organic rich lake sediments were found at Site 43. Detailed stratigraphic sections of these cores are in Appendix.

The core at Site 16 near Camp Lake is directly downslope of the Fountonnor glacial deposits. The core collected at the site had a distinct tephra horizon of the Devil's Hill and/or Rock Mesa eruptions ($\sim 2100 \pm 400$ yrs. B.P.) at 20 cm depth and small pieces of detrital wood near the bottom of the core (150 cm). These wood fragments dated to 80 ± 60 yrs. B.P. and 230 ± 10 yrs. B.P. If the tephra deposit was in-place, then the organic materials were likely contaminated for radiocarbon analysis during transport to the lab or are younger materials that fell into the core during augering. Alternatively, the tephra deposit could be reworked from the adjoining hills, which would make the dates of the wood fragments valid.

The core at Site 43 near Broken Top Mountain is directly upslope of the Early-Neoglacial deposits and probably represents the location of a prehistoric, moraine-dammed lake. The core contained no distinct tephra horizon, and instead abundant organic materials (grass) were found at 60 to 180 cm depth. Dates from the grass within the organic-rich mud rendered varying ages. I interpret the date of 875 ± 85 yr. B.P. as more representative of the actual age of the organic material rather than the post-1950 date, which was most likely from collapsed sediments near the top of the hole. Regardless, neither of these dates can be used as a minimum age of the Early-Neoglacial moraines because the core never reached lakebed deposits. At approximately 180 cm depth, the mud layer liquefied as it came into contact with the water table, making further extractions impossible.

The river exposures along the North Fork of Squaw Creek ranged from a few meters in the upper reaches (Site 05) to several meters further downslope (Site 15).

The river exposure at Site 05 has a distinct Mazama tephra layer that underlies a glacial outwash deposit. Several silt, sand, and gravel beds underlie the tephra layer. From 130 cm to 225 cm, the sediments grade from gravel at the base to silt at the top. These gradational beds may represent a time when Squaw Creek was meandering across the surface before it incised the path it follows today. Laminated silt deposits sit below the gradational beds. These silts were likely part of the moraine-dammed lake deposit. Macroscopic organic matter in the silt layers was absent precluding radiometric dating. Approximately 600 m downslope of Site 05, the exposure of river-cut sediments increased to ~10 m. At Site 15, a clearly visible Mazama tephra deposit directly overlies what I have interpreted as a Fountonnor till, thus giving a perfect relative age marker for the moraine deposit (Figure 23).



Figure 23: Photograph of Fountonnor till directly overlain with Mazama tephra (arrow).

2.2.3 Lake Core Stratigraphy:

A single lake core was collected between Middle and South Sister at Camp Lake, which is dammed by a Fountonnor end moraine (Figure 24). The core was 160 cm long and was composed of fine silt- and clay-sized lake sediments and sand- to gravel-sized tephra deposits (Figure 25). No apparent organic material for radiocarbon dating was recovered from the core (e.g. sticks, leaves, seeds, etc.). The first 45 cm of the core was composed of lake muds that alternated in color from light to dark brown (Munsell color code: 10YR – 2/2, 3/2, 3/3, 3/4, 4/3, and 4/4) (Figure 26). This alternating color pattern indicates that there was little or no mixing in the lake, otherwise the deposits would be more massive and uniform. A small (~5 cm) deposit of fine sand at ~15 cm depth, with sharp contacts, was found within the mud layer. Directly underlying the lake muds between 45-50 cm depth was a basaltic tephra probably erupted from Collier Cone near North Sister at 1500 ± 200 yrs. B.P. (Figure 27) (Scott, 2005). Below the basaltic tephra deposit was 5 cm of lake muds, followed by 45 cm of Devil's Hill / Rock Mesa tephra (50 – 95 cm depth) that was deposited 2100 ± 400 yrs. B.P. The rhyolitic tephra contained small pieces (<1 cm) of red cinters below ~70 cm depth (Figure 28). The remainder of the core (95-155 cm) was composed of red oxidized mud (2.5YR – 3/4 and 3/6), with faint remnants of alternating color bands, similar to the mud at the beginning of the core, but faded due to the oxidation (Figure 29). The oxidation of these lake sediments was most likely caused by the lake drying up, thus exposing the sediments to the surface where they began to oxidize. Because Camp Lake is glacier-fed, this drying of the lake may

indicate a glacial retreat. The large increase in the magnetic susceptibility through the bottom-most mud layer is consistent with the oxidized state of the core. The very bottom of the core contained some gravel-sized pieces of basalt that were impenetrable during coring.

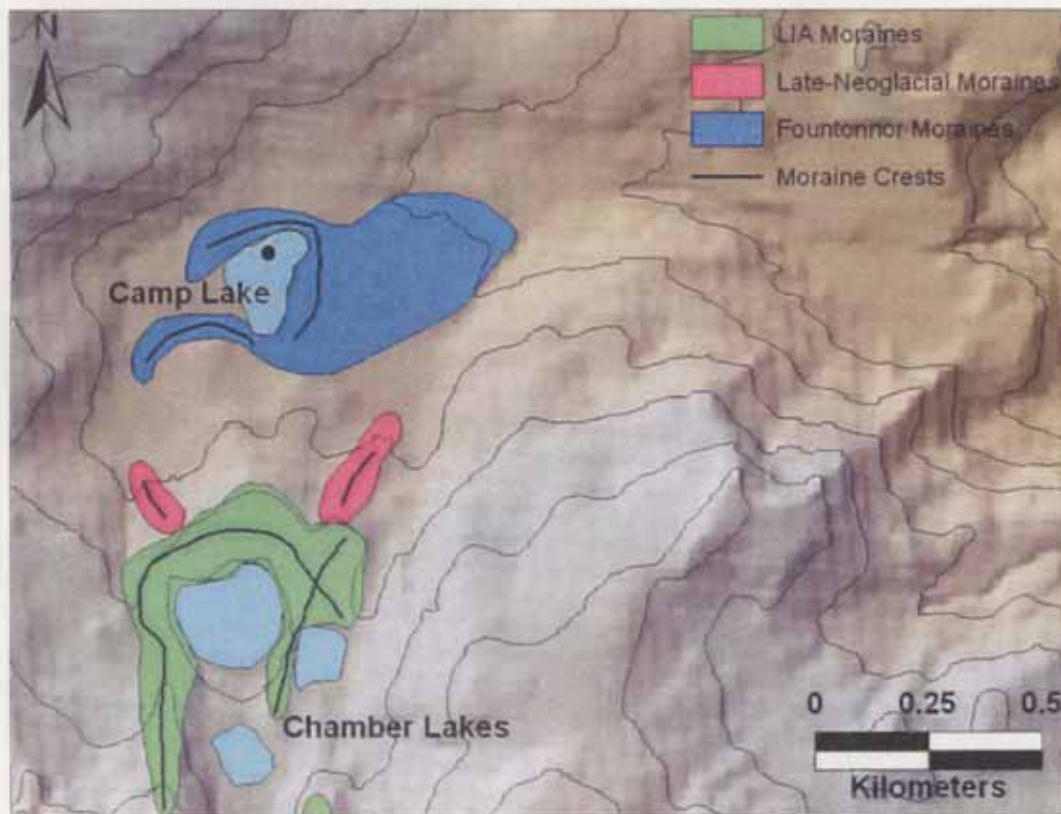


Figure 24: Geomorphologic map of glacial deposits and moraine crests near Camp and Chamber Lakes between Middle and South Sisters. The black dot is where the sediment core for Camp Lake was collected. Contour interval is 50 m.

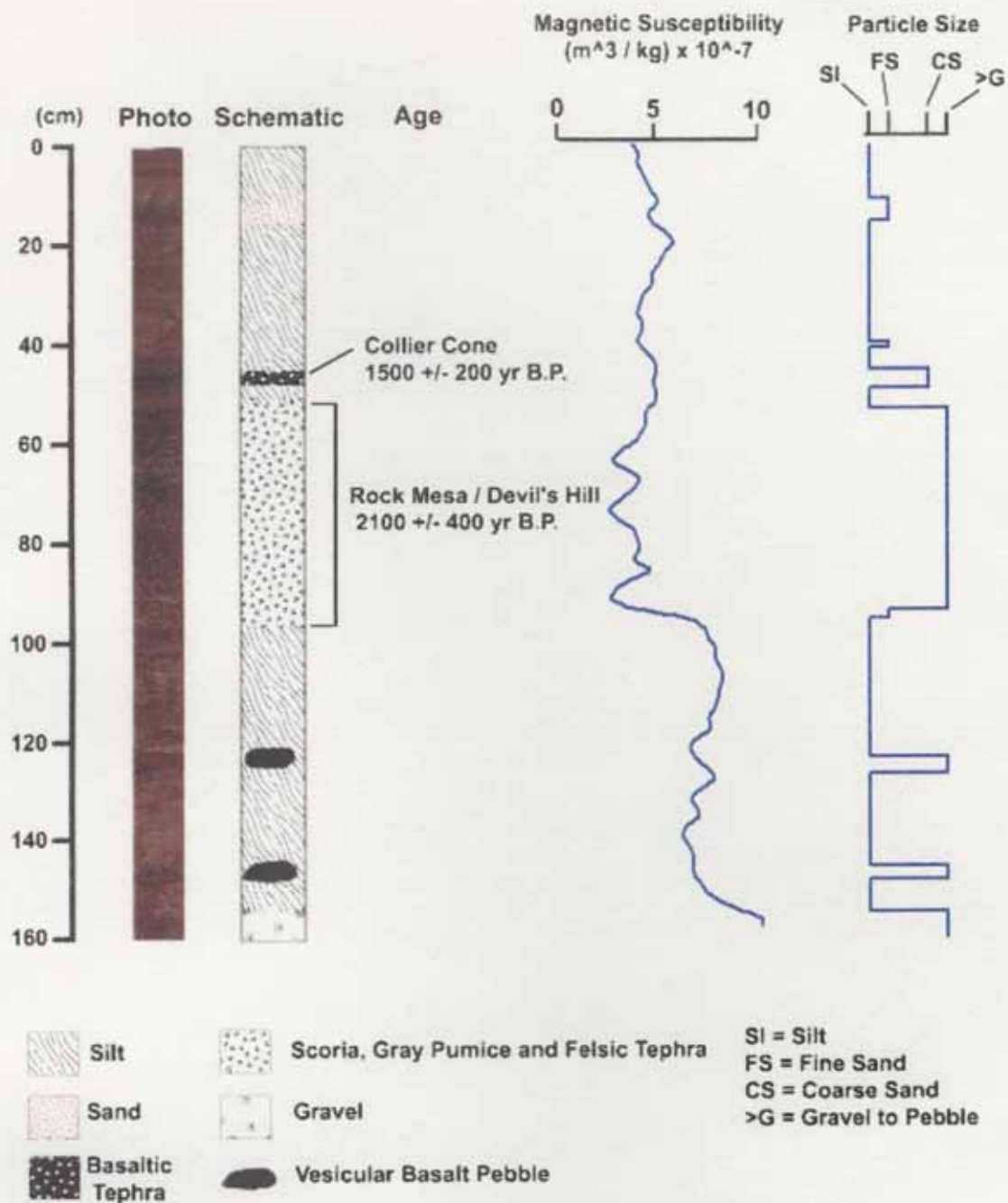


Figure 25: Diagram of Camp Lake core with magnetic susceptibility and generalized particle sizes.

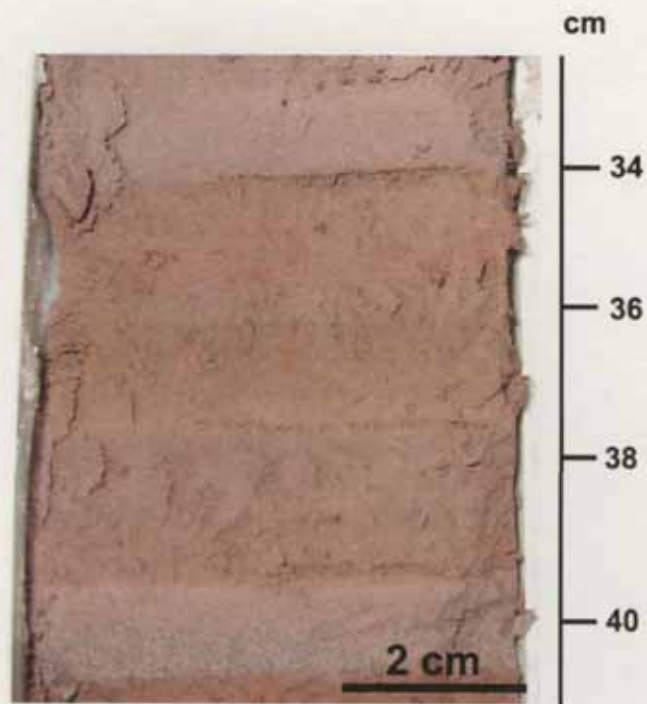


Figure 26: Photo of alternating colors in lake muds in upper section of core (33-41 cm).

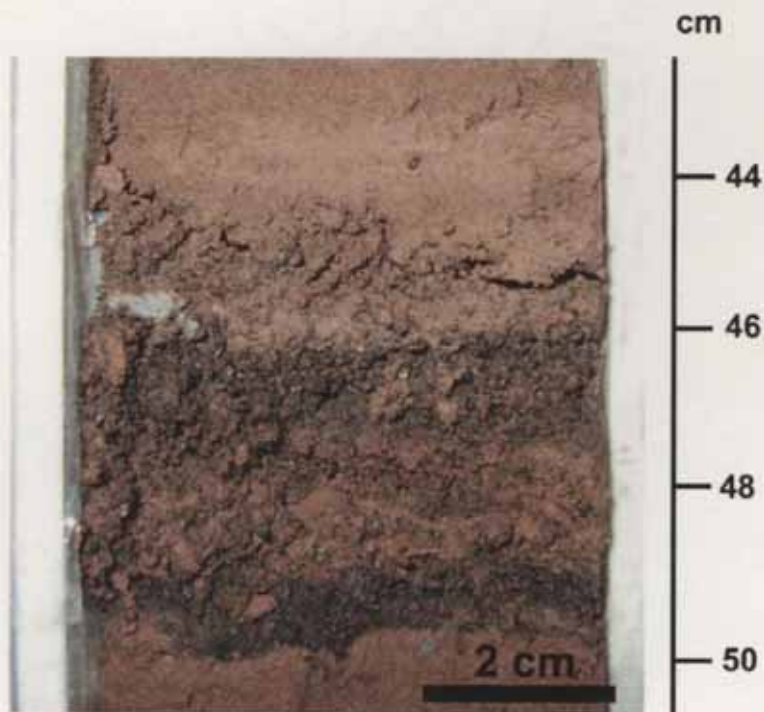


Figure 27: Photo of Collier Cone tephra deposit underlying lake muds (45-50 cm).

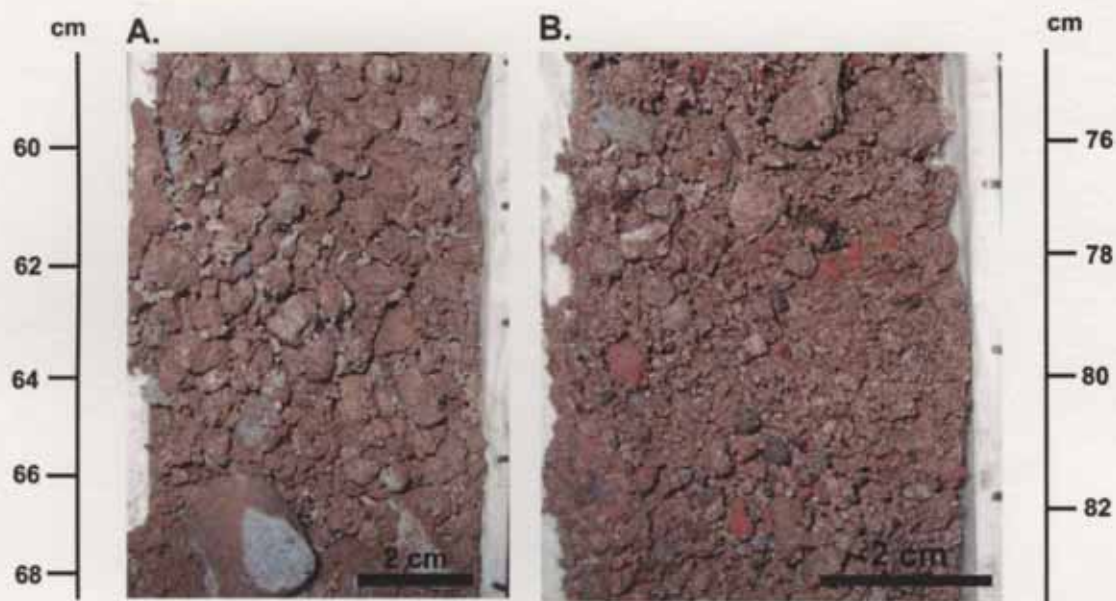


Figure 1: Photos of Devil's Hill / Rock Mesa rhyolitic tephra. Photo A is of the first 10 cm of the tephra and photo B (with the red sinters) is part of the lower section of the tephra (75 – 82 cm).

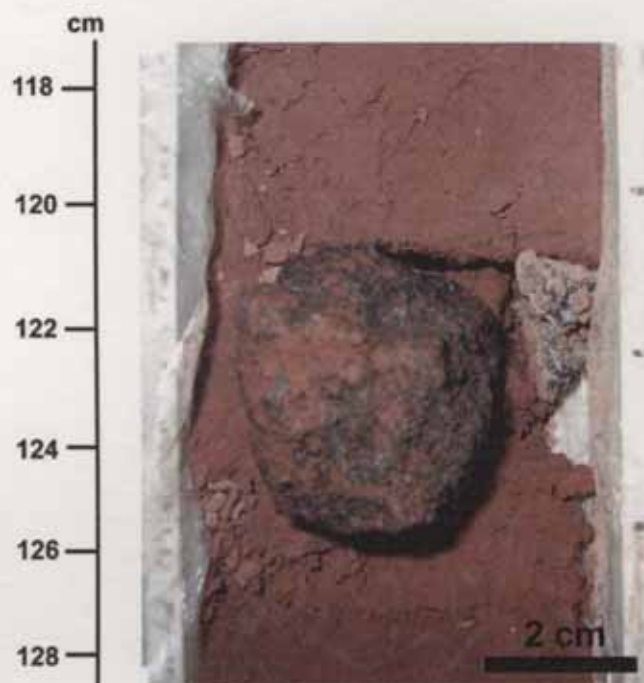


Figure 2: Oxidized lower mud layer with basalt pebble (118 - 128 cm). Notice rusty color of the mud layer.

Because no organic material was found within the mud units, an alternative method of dating the core has been used. Assuming that the deposition of the first 45 cm of the lake mud was constant, and that the sand unit within the mud was deposited from a short-lived event, such as a flood, the average rate of deposition for the top-most mud unit was 0.028 ± 0.004 cm/yr., using the Collier Cone date of 1500 ± 200 yrs. B.P. If the rate of deposition was the same for the bottom mud unit, then the lake sediments were deposited in 2210 ± 320 years, making the bottom of the oxidized mud about 4310 ± 720 yrs. B.P., using the Devil's Hill / Rock Mesa date of 2100 ± 400 yrs. B.P. This date is likely a minimum date because it neglects the time it would have taken the bottom mud unit to oxidize to its current state. If the bottom of the core is $\sim 4300 \pm 700$ yrs. B.P. and the bottom-most mud unit was oxidized from the lake drying up due to glacial retreat, then the Early-Neoglacial stand of the glaciers must have occurred between the Mazama Ash deposit (7.7 ka B.P.) and some time after the lake dry up at 4300 ± 700 yrs. B.P.

2.3 Summary

Based on moraines at Three Sisters and Broken Top mountain, the LIA glacial advance at Three Sisters extended 1 – 2 km from the glacial headwalls. Several small recessional type moraines inside the larger lateral moraine sets suggest other small standstills of the glaciers as they retreated to present positions. Locally, the deposits are similar geomorphically and stratigraphically to the LIA moraines described at Mt. Hood by Lillquist (1988), the phase 1 and 2 moraines of the Jefferson Park advance at

Mt. Jefferson (Scott, 1974), the LIA moraines of Mount Bachelor (Scott et al., 1990), the Neoglacial II deposits at Mt. McLoughlin (Carver, 1972) and the Lathrop phase 1 and 2 moraines of Mt. Thielson (LaFrenz, 2001). In these local studies the moraine deposits lack Mazama tephra, have little to no soil development, are within 0 – 300 m of modern glacier termini, and are well developed with sharp crests. This closely matches the LIA deposits found at Three Sisters, where the lateral and end moraines lack Devil's Hill / Rock Mesa ($2,100 \pm 400$ ka B.P.) and Mazama (7.7 ka B.P.) tephra, have poorly developed soil horizons, are typically within 50 m of modern glacier termini, have sparse vegetation cover on their slopes, and are ~60 m high with sharp crests. These LIA deposits are also analogous to young glacial deposits observed in other regions of the western United States such as Washington (Burrows et al., 2000; Crandell, 1969; Miller, 1969) and Utah (Anderson and Anderson, 1981; Madsen and Currey, 1979). From local tree ring records and other land based temperature data, the LIA advance at Three Sisters likely took place within the last 150 – 200 yrs. (O'Connor et al., 2001; Wiles et al., 1996), consistent with the previously mentioned local and regional studies.

The remnant Late-Neoglacial moraines are isolated to only a few localities on the Three Sisters and Broken Top mountain and are difficult to reconstruct and correlate with other advances in the western United State because of the lack of existing morainal material. The moraines could represent a still stand of the glaciers during the retreat from the Early-Neoglacial or Fountonnor moraines but confirming this is difficult. What is known about the moraines is that they formed between ~2

and 8 ka B.P. based on the presence of Devil's Hill / Rock Mesa tephra ($\sim 2100 \pm 400$ yrs. B.P.) overlying the moraines, the lack of Mazama ash (7.7 ka yrs B.P.) on the moraine slopes, and the small degree of morainal weathering and vegetation cover.

Based on the Early-Neoglacial moraines at Broken Top and South Sister, the glaciers were more extensive than during the LIA and Late-Neoglacial periods, with the glaciers extending 2-3 km from the glacial headwalls. From the well-developed lateral and end moraines, the glaciers likely stayed at their maximum positions for a prolonged period (> 100 yrs.) before retreating upslope. The Early-Neoglacial stand at Three Sisters occurred during the mid to early Holocene (2.5 – 8.0 ka. B.P.) based on the presence of Devil's Hill and/or Rock Mesa tephra and the lack of Mazama ash on the moraine slopes (Dethier, 1980a, b). Locally, the Early-Neoglacial moraines are similar to the Neoglacial I deposits at Mt. McLoughlin (Carver, 1972). Both deposits lie stratigraphically above Mazama tephra, are covered with large amounts of lichen and tree cover, do not have much soil development, and are < 3 km from the termini of modern glaciers.

Based on the moraines at Middle Sister, the Fountonnor stand at Three Sisters was the furthest the glaciers had been since the latest Pleistocene with the ice extending 3-4 km from the glacial headwalls. The multiple end and lateral moraines that have been preserved from this stand suggest that the glaciers were at their maximum positions for an extensive period (> 100 yrs.). Locally, the Fountonnor deposits are stratigraphically and geomorphically similar to the Canyon Creek drift of the Cabot Creek advance at Mt. Jefferson (Scott, 1974) and the Zephyr Lake drift in

the Mountain Lakes Wilderness (Carver, 1972). Both the Canyon Creek and Zephyr Lake drifts are covered with Mazama ash and both sets of moraines have soil development of 15-45 cm, similar to the Fountonnor deposits at Three Sisters. The Fountonnor stand was pre-Mazama and based on the incorporation of the Mazama tephra in the soil deposits and the amount of weathering of the Fountonnor moraines, the stand may have been within the last 10,000-12,000 years. Consequently, the Fountonnor stand may correlate with the post Younger Dryas advances found at Mt. Rainier (10.4 ± 0.5 ka B.P.) and the Wallowa Mountains (10.2 ± 0.5 ka B.P.) (Heine, 1997; Licciardi et al., 2004) to Younger Dryas advances in British Columbia (11.5 ± 0.3 ka B.P.), the Enchantment Lakes Wilderness (>11.3 ka B.P.) and the San Bernadino Mountains (12.5 ± 0.5 ka B.P.) (Bilderback, 2004; Owen et al., 2003; Reasoner et al., 1994).

Chapter 3: Equilibrium Line and Paleoclimate Reconstructions

The balance between glacier extent and climate is based on the equilibrium line altitude (ELA) of a glacier. Reconstructing the glacier's position with time allows inferences about climate change to be made. The ELA represents the boundary on a glacier between the zone of annual net accumulation (mass gain) and the zone of annual net ablation (mass loss) (Patterson, 2001). The position of the ELA is controlled by annual climate based on spatial variations in snow accumulation and mass loss through the surface energy balance. Simplified, the change in the ELA can be attributed to winter precipitation and summer temperature changes (Leonard, 1989; Ohmura et al., 1992; Porter, 1977). Changes in the ELA position through time represent changes in snow accumulation and temperature. By reconstructing the ELAs of pre-existing glaciers and comparing them with modern ELAs, aspects of the former climate can be inferred.

The ELAs for the modern and pre-existing glaciers on the east and north flanks of the Three Sisters volcanoes and the north flank of Broken Top mountain were calculated using both the accumulation area ratio (AAR) (Meier and Post, 1962) and the balance ratio methods (BR) (Furbish and Andrews, 1984). Typical AAR values for modern glaciers in a steady-state condition range from 0.5 to 0.8 (Meier and Post, 1962). Following previous work in Oregon by Scott (1977), Carver (1972), and Bevis (1995), I used an AAR value of 0.65 ± 0.1 to determine present and past ELAs. The BR method with a net-balance ratio of 2, which is representative of maritime mid-latitude glaciers (Furbish and Andrews, 1984), was implemented. Both the AAR and

BR methods account for the area of the glacier residing in the ablation and accumulation zone, but the BR method goes a step further and better accounts for the distribution of glacier area with altitude. The BR method has been proven most useful for glaciers that have a “complex” shape (Benn and Gemmell, 1997; Furbish and Andrews, 1984). Because most of the glaciers at Three Sisters and Broken Top have “complex” geometries that resemble ice cap type glaciers, the BR method was viewed as a better tool in determining the ELA of the glaciers, and its values were utilized in this study. Differences in elevation between the ELAs estimated with the AAR and BR methods averaged 80 m with the AAR consistently predicting lower ELAs.

Using the BR method (Furbish and Andrews, 1984), the glaciers’ ELAs were calculated,

$$\frac{db_{nb}/dz}{db_{nc}/dz} = \frac{z_c A_c}{z_b A_b} \quad (1)$$

where db_{nb}/dz is the net mass-balance gradient in the ablation zone (yr^{-1}), db_{nc}/dz is the net mass-balance gradient in the accumulation zone (yr^{-1}), z_c is the area-weighted mean altitude of the ablation zone (m), z_b is the area-weighted mean altitude of the accumulation zone (m), A_c is the area of the accumulation zone (m^2) and A_b is the area of the ablation zone (m^2). For temperate glaciers, the left hand side of equation (1) is approximately 2 (Furbish and Andrews, 1984). To determine the ELA of any given glacier, one needs to know the area distribution with elevation. For the right hand side of equation (1), one begins by assuming that the ELA is the mean

elevation of the glacier, which renders values for $z_{c/b}$ and $A_{c/b}$. If these values do not satisfy equation (1), then a new ELA is chosen and tested. One continues this trial and error process until the right hand side of equation (1) equals the left (i.e. 2). I used a computer spreadsheet developed by Benn and Gemmell (1997), which automated this process through a series of iterations. To determine the area distribution with elevation for both the BR and AAR methods, the area of the glaciers were broken up into 60 m elevation segments (Figure 30- Figure 31). To find the ELA using the AAR method, a cumulative area plot versus elevation was constructed for each of the glaciers and, using an AAR value of 0.65 ± 0.1 , the ELAs of the glaciers were determined.

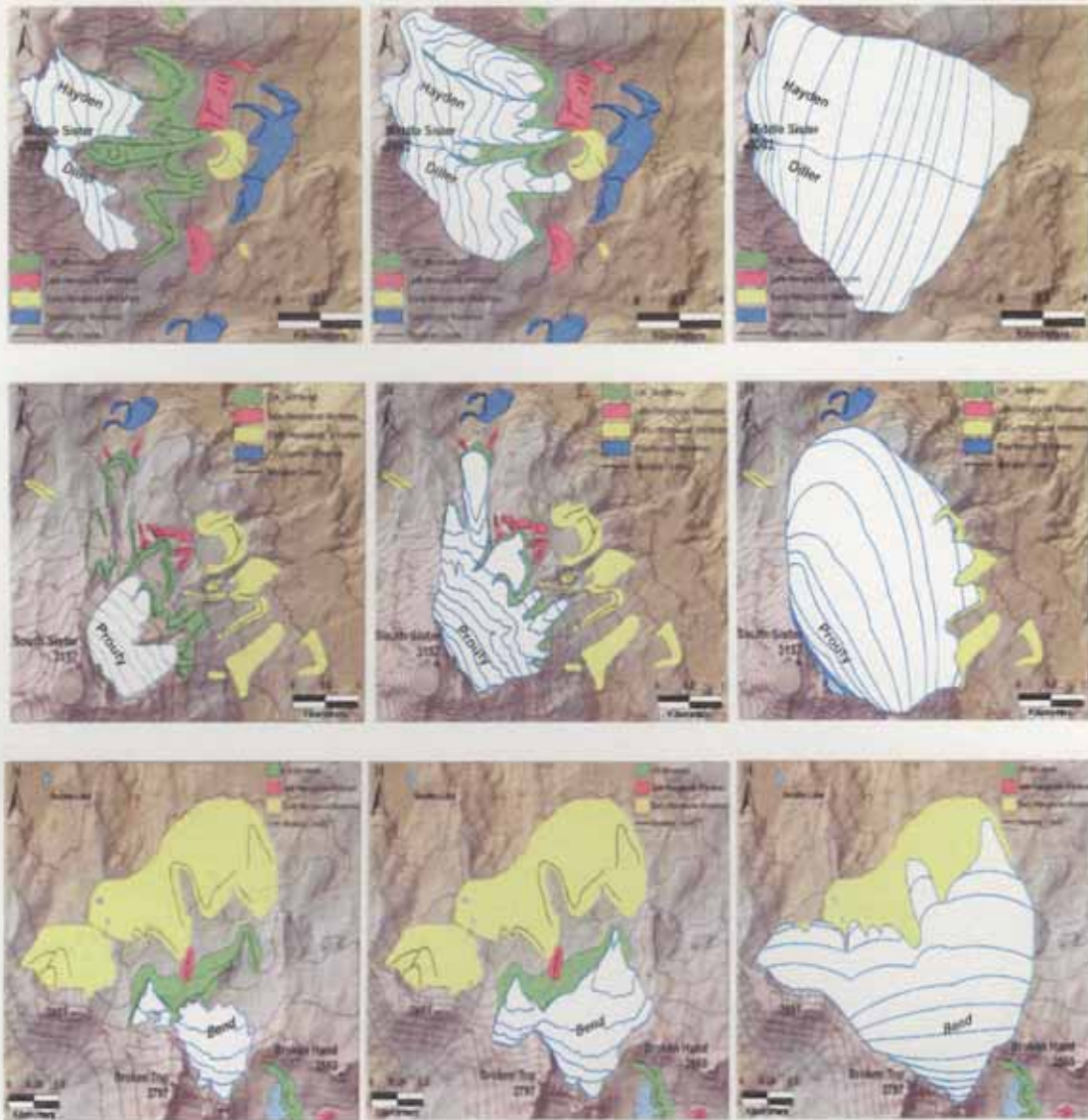


Figure 30: Shape profile used to calculate the area for modern, Little Ice Age, and Early-Neoglacial at Diller and Hayden glaciers (top), Prouty glacier (middle), and Bend glacier (bottom).

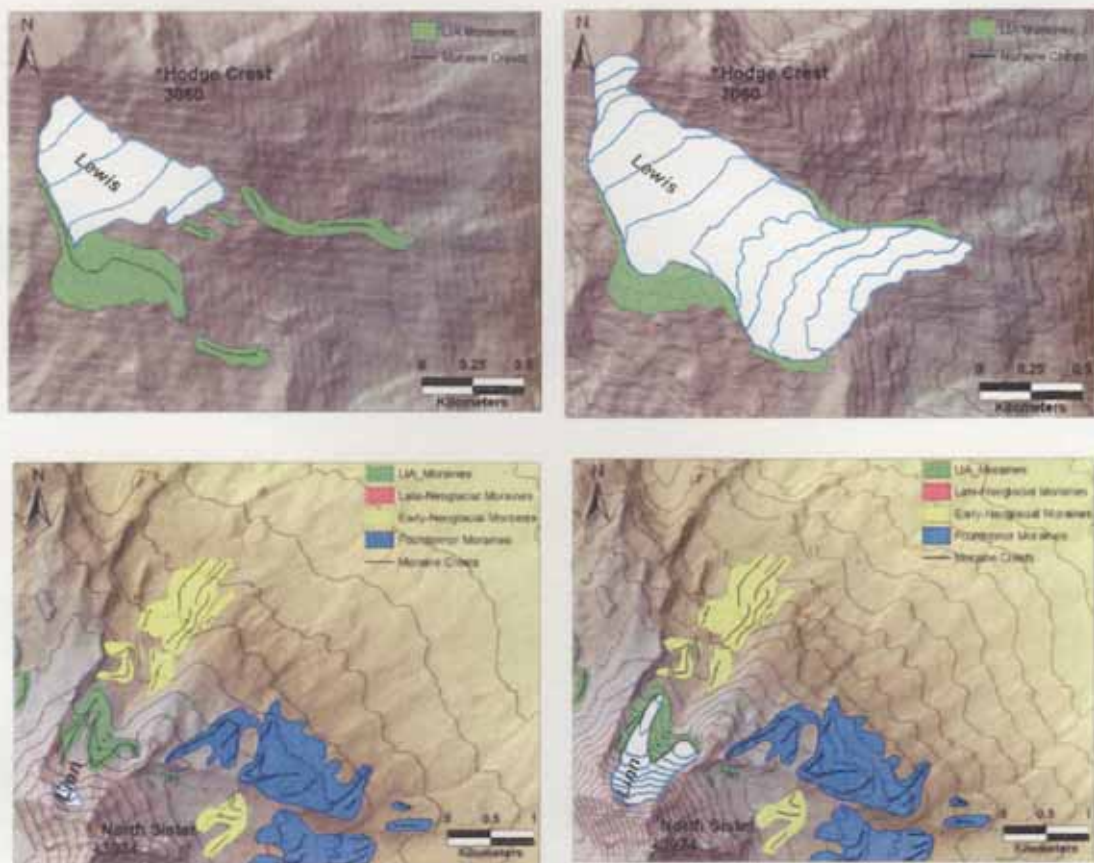


Figure 31: Shape profile used to calculate the area for modern and Little Ice Age at Lewis glacier (top) and Linn glacier (bottom).

The modern glaciers' areas were mapped using black and white aerial photographs taken during the summer of 1995 (GEO, 2005). The reconstructed glaciers for the LIA, Early-Neoglacial, and the Fountonnor extents were mapped using 7.5 minute topographic maps. The Late-Neoglacial glaciers were not reconstructed because the moraines were so few. To determine the glacier contours, I used modern contours from the topographic maps for both the present and LIA glaciers. I used existing bedrock elevations for the paleo-contour topography of the Early-Neoglacial and Fountonnor glaciers. This method constructs a zero thickness glacier. While a

more realistic geometry could be constructed, I felt that the relatively steep and uniform slope of the volcano flanks did not warrant a more realistic reconstruction. Although this approach results in estimated ELAs that are likely ~100 m too low, it is sufficient because my interest here is ELA change, not absolute ELA.

The results for the balance ratio and accumulation area ratio methods are shown in Table 3 and Table 4. The average ELA increased 40 – 200 m from the LIA to present for all the glaciers. Since the Early-Neoglacial and Fountonnor glaciations, the ELA has increased significantly. From the Early-Neoglacial to the present, the ELAs appear to have increased 130 m at South Sister and 300 m at Broken Top. From the Fountonnor glaciation, the ELAs have increased 290 – 320 m at Middle Sister. These changes in the ELAs could indicate a major shift in climate over the last 10,000 years.

Table 3: Equilibrium line altitudes (BR method) for the glaciers at Three Sisters and Broken Top during the modern, Little Ice Age, Early-Neoglacial, and Fountonnor glacial periods.

Modern		Little Ice Age		Early-Neoglacial		Fountonnor	
Glacier	ELA (m)	Glacier	ELA (m)	Glacier	ELA (m)	Glacier	ELA (m)
Diller	2577	Diller	2466			Diller	2291
Hayden	2633	Hayden	2541			Hayden	2318
Bend	2466	Bend	2428	Bend	2332		
Prouty	2667	Prouty	2542	Prouty	2362		
Lewis	2768	Lewis	2648				
Linn	2652	Linn	2476				
Average (m) = 2627			2545		2347		2305
Standard Deviation = 101			78		21		19

Table 4: Equilibrium line altitudes (AAR method) for the glaciers at Three Sisters and Broken Top during the modern, Little Ice Age, Early-Neoglacial, and Fountonnor glacial periods

Modern		Little Ice Age		Early-Neoglacial		Fountonnor	
Glacier	ELA (m)	Glacier	ELA (m)	Glacier	ELA (m)	Glacier	ELA (m)
Diller	2487 ± 30	Diller	2363 ± 35			Diller	2188 ± 55
Hayden	2551 ± 40	Hayden	2452 ± 60			Hayden	2248 ± 110
Bend	2380 ± 20	Bend	2342 ± 20	Bend	2298 ± 25		
Prouty	2579 ± 30	Prouty	2437 ± 35	Prouty	2272 ± 30		
Lewis	2687 ± 20	Lewis	2566 ± 70				
Linn	2573 ± 10	Linn	2365 ± 30				
Average (m) = 2543 ± 30		2452 ± 40		2285 ± 30		2218 ± 80	
Standard Deviation = 103		84		18		42	

To determine the paleoclimate necessary to maintain the lowered ELAs for the Little Ice Age, Early-Neoglacial, and Fountonnor glaciers, I followed the methods described by Leonard (1989). By plotting the highest monthly mean accumulation (cm water equivalent (weq.)) against mean summer temperatures (°C) (June - August) at the equilibrium line of 32 modern glaciers (Figure 32), a relationship between summer temperature and winter accumulation is defined for modern climates (Leonard, 1989; Loewe, 1971; Sutherland, 1984). This relationship was mathematically defined using Kotlyakov and Krenke (1982),

$$\begin{aligned}
 A &= 1.33(T + 9.66)^{2.85} \\
 A &= 1.33(T + 6.66)^{2.85}
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{2}$$

where A is winter accumulation (mm weq.) and T is the mean June-August summer temperature (°C), who bound the scatter in the data with two lines (Figure

32). The envelope between the lines defines the range of conditions for modern glaciers.

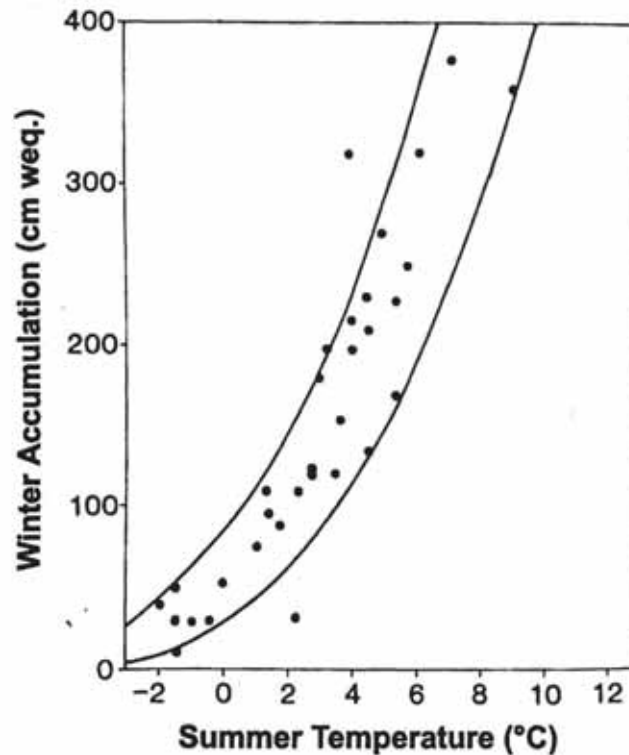


Figure 32: Winter accumulation versus mean summer temperature (June – August) at the equilibrium lines of 32 glaciers with worldwide distribution (Leonard, 1989).

Assuming that the equation (2) developed by Kotlyakov and Krenke (1982) applies to past climatic conditions, I can estimate the paleoclimate. First, the present mean summer temperature (°C) and the highest monthly mean accumulation (cm weq.) at the paleo and modern ELAs were identified. To establish the temperature and accumulation at Three Sisters, linear lapse rates for mean summer temperature and highest monthly mean accumulation were derived using meteorological stations located at lower elevations. The mean summer temperature lapse rate was calculated

using historical climate data from 1971-2001 (WRCC, 2005) from six sites in the central Cascades of Oregon between elevations of 451 and 1972 m (Figure 33). Because altitude and temperature have a high degree of correlation, the six sites chosen for the mean summer temperature were selected according to their elevation and distance from Three Sisters and not whether their position was east or west of the Cascade crest. The lapse rate for the summer temperature versus elevation is $0.53^{\circ}\text{C} / 100 \text{ m}$, which is close to the wet adiabatic lapse rate. The mean summer temperature regression line accounted for 96% of the variance in temperature and was statistically significant within 1% ($p = 0.01$).

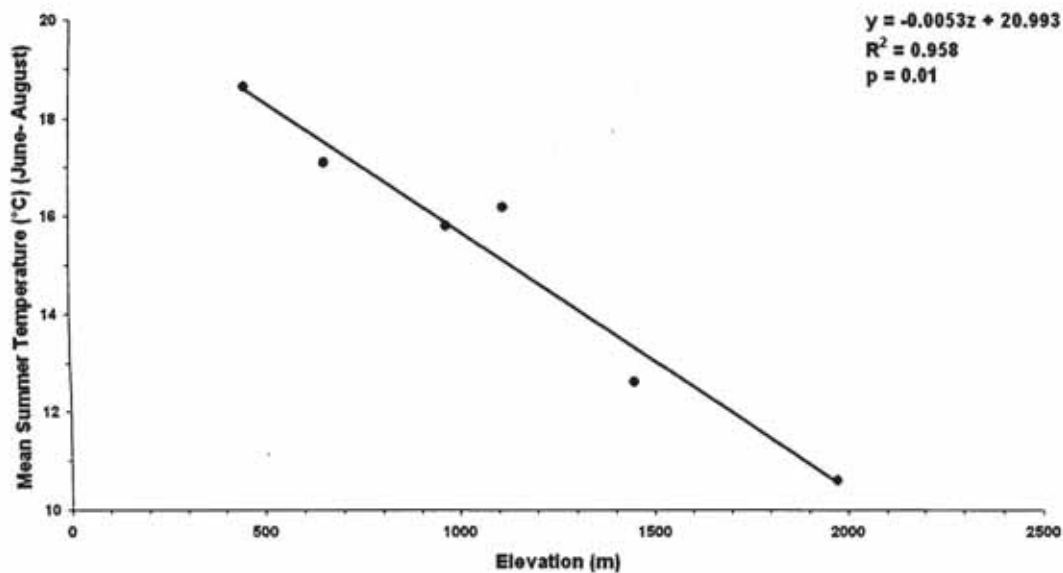


Figure 33: Linear regression line for mean summer temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) versus elevation (m) for six meteorological stations near the Three Sisters Volcanoes.

Table 5: Meteorological stations used to calculate linear regression line for mean summer temperature (1971-2001) (WRCC, 2005).

SNOTEL Name	Latitude and Longitude (Degrees, Minutes)	Elevation (m)	Average Summer Temperature (°C)
McKenzie	44° 11', 122° 07'	451	18.6
Belknap	44° 18', 122° 02'	655	17.1
Sisters	44° 17', 122° 33'	969	15.8
Bend	44° 04', (122° 17' & 122° 19')	1113	16.2
Santiam	44° 25', 122° 52'	1448	12.6
Crater Lake	42° 54', 122° 08'	1972	10.6

Because winter accumulation is sensitive to small changes in local topography and aspect, and not strictly changes in altitude, meteorological stations chosen for the accumulation gradient were east of the Cascade crest and within ~30 km of the Three Sisters and Broken Top to account for the rain shadow effect. The winter accumulation lapse rate was calculated using historical climate data from 1971-2000 (NRCS, 2005) from four SNOTEL and snow course sites between elevations of 1585 and 1951 m (Figure 34). The accumulation gradient for the winter accumulation versus elevation is 32.13 cm / 100 m. For the winter accumulation, 96% of the variance was accounted for and was statistically significant within 2.5% ($p = 0.025$).

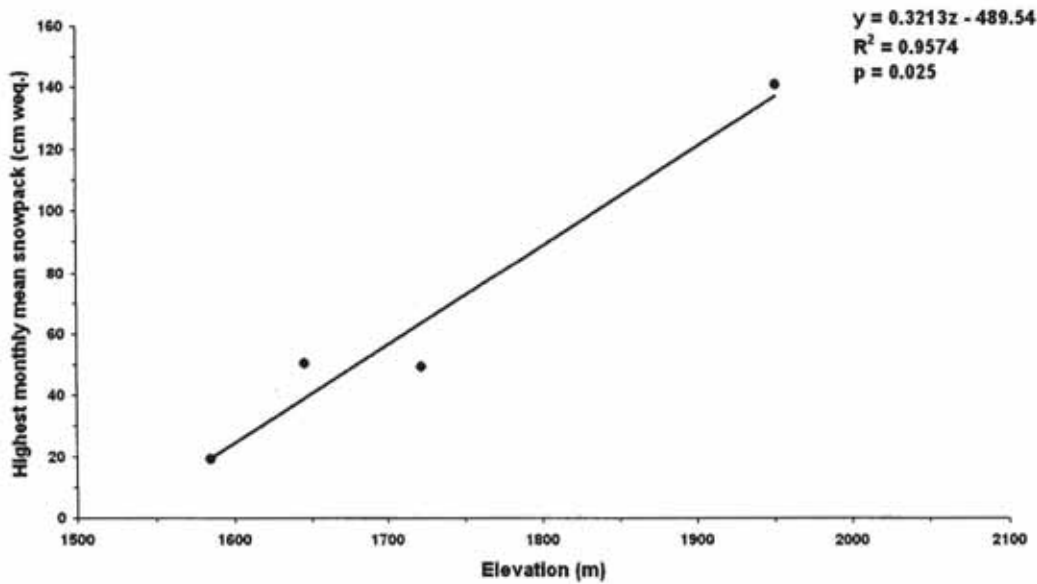


Figure 34: Linear regression line for highest monthly mean winter accumulation (cm weq.) versus elevation (m) for four meteorological stations east of the Three Sisters Volcanoes.

Table 6: Meteorological stations used to calculate linear regression line for mean winter accumulation (1971-2000) (NRCS, 2005).

SNOTEL or Snow Course Name	Latitude and Longitude (Degrees, Minutes)	Elevation (m)	Highest Monthly Mean Snowpack (cm weq.)
Three Creek Butte	44° 09', 121° 38'	1585	19.3
Tangent	44° 01', 121° 34'	1646	50.6
Three Creeks Meadow	44° 09', 121° 38'	1722	49.2
New Dutchman Flat #3	44° 00', 121° 42'	1951	140.7

Using the modern lapse rate for temperature and the accumulation gradient, the modern climate at the paleo and modern ELAs were determined (Table 7; Figure 35). For the modern glaciers at Three Sisters, the predicted climate conditions were in close agreement with Figure 32. To determine the past climates required at the ELAs, the current climate for the LIA, Early-Neoglacial and Fountonnor ELAs were plotted

onto Figure 32 (Figure 36). These points were then adjusted for the climate required to sustain a glacier with that ELA.

Table 7: Estimated modern climate conditions at present and past glacier equilibrium lines (balance ratio).

	Glacier	ELA	Summer Temperature	Winter Accumulation
<i>Modern Glaciers</i>		(m)	(°C)	(cm weq.)
	Diller	2577	7.3	338
	Hayden	2633	7.0	356
	Bend	2466	7.9	303
	Prouty	2667	6.9	367
	Lewis	2768	6.3	400
	Linn	2652	6.9	363
<i>LIA Glaciers</i>		(m)	(°C)	(cm weq.)
	Diller	2466	7.9	303
	Hayden	2541	7.5	327
	Bend	2428	8.1	291
	Prouty	2542	7.5	327
	Lewis	2648	7.0	361
	Linn	2476	7.9	306
<i>Early-Neoglacial</i>		(m)	(°C)	(cm weq.)
	Bend	2332	8.6	260
	Prouty	2362	8.5	269
<i>Fountonnor</i>		(m)	(°C)	(cm weq.)
	Diller	2278	8.9	247
	Hayden	2298	8.7	255

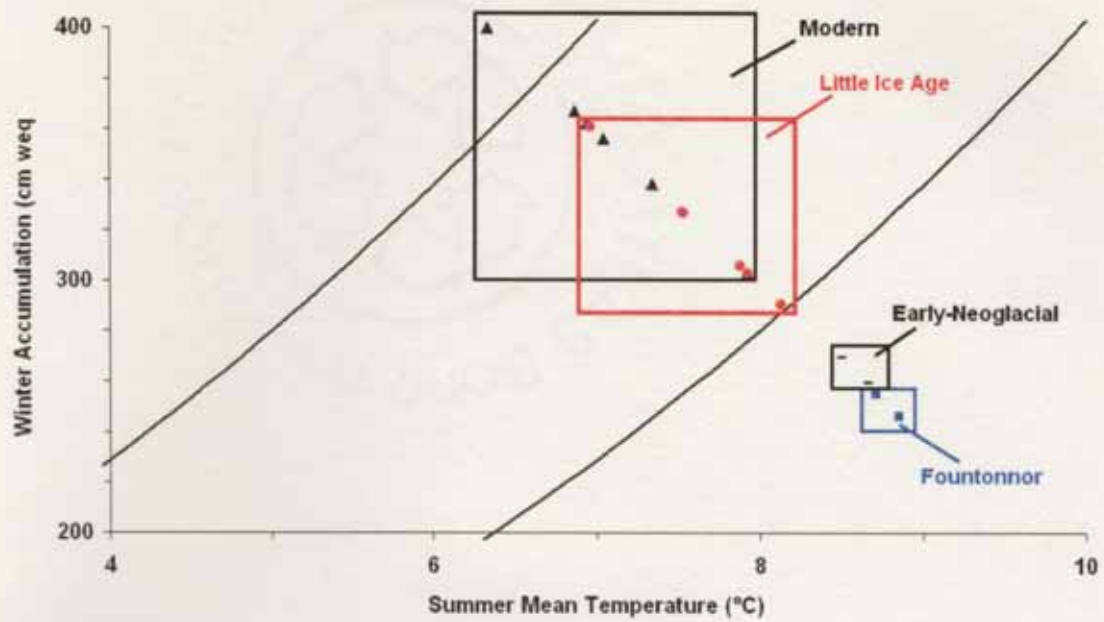


Figure 35: Estimated modern climates at present, LIA, Early-Neoglacial and Fouttonnor glacier equilibrium lines (adapted from Leonard, 1989). Black lines are climate envelope defined by Kotlyakov and Krenke (1982) and illustrated in Leonard (1989).

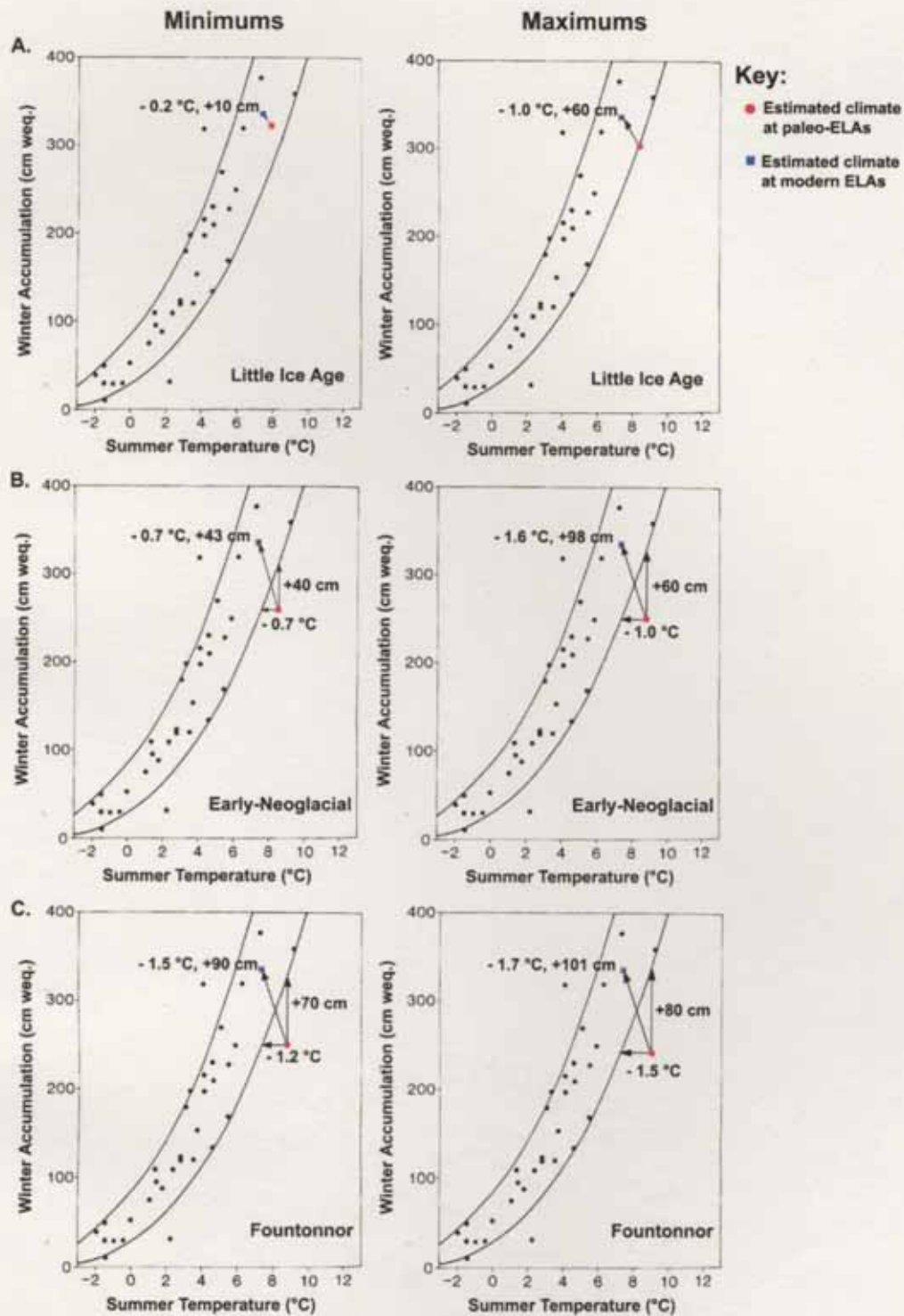


Figure 36: Winter accumulation versus mean summer temperature at the equilibrium lines of glaciers throughout the world (Leonard, 1989). Arrows and numbers indicate minimum and maximum summer temperature depressions and winter accumulation increases needed to shift the paleo-ELAs into modern glacier conditions

The difference between the modern climate conditions at the present glaciers and those of the LIA is small. The mean summer temperature would need to decrease by $0.2 - 1.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ and increase in winter accumulation by 10 - 60 cm weq. (Figure 36). Climate conditions at the Early-Neoglacial equilibrium lines would need to either decrease mean summer temperature by minimum of 0.7°C ($0.7 - 1.0^{\circ}\text{C}$) or increase mean monthly winter accumulation by a minimum of 40 cm weq. (40 - 60 cm weq.) to plot on the bottom climate curve (Figure 36). For the climate at the Early-Neoglacial glaciers to reach a similar value as the present glaciers, mean summer temperature needs to decrease by a minimum of 0.7°C ($0.7 - 1.6^{\circ}\text{C}$) and mean monthly winter accumulation needs to increase by a minimum of 40 cm weq. (40 - 100 cm weq.). For the Fountonnor glaciers to plot on the bottom of the curve, mean summer temperature needs to decrease by a minimum of 1.2°C ($1.2 - 1.5^{\circ}\text{C}$) or increase mean monthly winter accumulation by a minimum of 70 cm weq. (70 - 80 cm weq.) (Figure 36). For the climate at the Fountonnor glaciers to reach a similar value as the present glaciers, a mean summer temperature needs to decrease by a minimum of 1.5°C ($1.5 - 1.7^{\circ}\text{C}$) and mean monthly winter accumulation needs to increase by a minimum of 90 cm weq. (90 - 100 cm weq.).

Chapter 4: Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Discussion

The modern glaciers on the east flanks of the Three Sisters Volcanoes and on the north flank of Broken Top Mountain (Linn, Diller, Hayden, Prouty, Lewis, and Bend glaciers) are on average $\sim 0.60 \text{ km}^2$ in area, covering a total area of $\sim 3.50 \text{ km}^2$ (Driedger and Kennard, 1986). Maximum ice thicknesses measured with ground-penetrating radar are between 45-75 m yielding a total ice volume of $\sim 0.07 \text{ km}^3$ (Driedger and Kennard, 1986). The glacier extent is bounded by 2100 and 3100 m elevation. The average ELA is $\sim 2627 \text{ m}$ (balance ratio) or 2543 ± 30 (accumulation area ratio), which corresponds well with ELAs measured on the east side of Mt. Jefferson and Three-Fingered Jack ($2590 \pm 35 \text{ m}$) using a similar AAR value of 0.65 ± 0.1 (Scott, 1977).

Based on both lateral and terminal moraines, the LIA glaciers (Linn, Diller, Hayden, Prouty, Lewis, and Bend) primarily existed between 2200 and 3000 m elevation, and the average ELA for the LIA glaciers was 80 m (balance ratio) to 90 m (accumulation area ratio) lower than modern glaciers. The LIA glacial advance at Three Sisters extended 1-2 km from the glacial headwalls and the glaciers likely stayed at their maximum positions for a time sufficient to construct the large ($\sim 60 \text{ m}$) and well developed end and lateral moraines. Based on the lack of Devil's Hill and Rock Mesa tephra ($\sim 2100 \pm 400 \text{ yrs. B.P.}$) and the lack of developed soil horizons and plant cover on the moraine slopes, the LIA advances at Three Sisters likely

reached their maximum positions within the last 150-250 years, which is consistent with temperature depressions recorded in tree rings from Oregon and other land based temperature data (O'Connor et al., 2001; Wiles et al., 1996). The LIA deposits at Three Sisters and Broken Top are correlative in time with LIA moraine deposits in other regions of Oregon (Carver, 1972; LaFrenz, 2001; Lillquist, 1988; Scott, 1974; Scott et al., 1990) and the western United States (Anderson and Anderson, 1981; Burrows et al., 2000; Crandell, 1969; Madsen and Currey, 1979; Miller, 1969).

The remnant Late-Neoglacial moraines are isolated to only a few localities on the Three Sisters and Broken Top mountain and are difficult to reconstruct and correlate with other advances in the western United State. The moraines could represent a still stand of the glaciers during the retreat from the Early-Neoglacial or Fountonnor moraines but confirming this is difficult. The moraines formed between ~2 and 8 ka B.P. based on the presence of Devil's Hill / Rock Mesa tephra (~ 2100 ± 400 yrs. B.P.), the lack of Mazama ash (7.7 ka yrs B.P.), and the small degree of morainal weathering and vegetation cover.

From lateral and end moraines at South Sister and Broken Top, the Early-Neoglacial glaciers (Prouty and Bend) primarily existed between 2100 and 3000 m elevation. The average ELA from the two glaciers was 280 m (balance ratio) to 260 m (accumulation area ratio) lower than modern glaciers. The Early-Neoglacial glaciers were more extensive than the both the LIA and Late-Neoglacial glaciations with glaciers extending 2-3 km from the glacial headwalls. The Early-Neoglacial stand at Three Sisters occurred during the mid Holocene (2.5 – 8.0 ka. B.P.) based on the

presence of Devil's Hill and/or Rock Mesa tephra ($\sim 2100 \pm 400$ yrs. B.P.) and the lack of Mazama ash (7,700 yrs B.P.) on the moraine slopes (Dethier, 1980a, b). Locally, the Early-Neoglacial deposits are similar to the Neoglacial I deposits at Mt. McLoughlin (Carver, 1972). Both deposits lie stratigraphically above Mazama tephra, are covered with large amounts of lichen and tree cover, do not have much soil development, and are < 3 km from the termini of modern glaciers. In additions, both the Early-Neoglacial and Neoglacial 1 deposits at Mt. McLoughlin had ELAs that were 200-300 m lower than modern glaciers.

Evidence from lateral and end moraines at Middle Sister suggests that the reconstructed Fountonnor glaciers (Diller and Hayden) extended 3-4 km from the glacial headwalls. The Fountonnor stand was pre-Mazama (~ 7500 yrs. B.P.) and based on the incorporation of the Mazama tephra in the soil deposits and the amount of weathering of the Fountonnor moraines, the stand may have been within the last 10,000-12,000 years. Locally, the Fountonnor moraines are stratigraphically and geomorphically similar to the Canyon Creek drift of the Cabot Creek advance at Mt. Jefferson (Scott, 1974) and the Zephyr Lake drift in the Mountain Lakes Wilderness (Carver, 1972). Both the Canyon Creek and Zephyr Lake drifts are covered with Mazama ash and both sets of moraines have medium soil development (15-45 cm), similar to the Fountonnor deposits at Three Sisters. However, the Fountonnor glaciers' ELAs were only 320 m (both balance and accumulation area ratio) lower than current glaciers while the Canyon Creek and Zephyr Lake glacier's ELA dropped 700-750 m. The difference in ELA may result from differences in topography causing

variations in precipitation and temperature between the sites, but because all three sites are within ~150 km of each other and have comparable elevations (± 500 m), it is unlikely that drastic changes in temperature occurred. Also, large and sustained differences in snowfall are unlikely. I infer that the Fountonnor stand was slightly younger and less extensive than the Canyon Creek and Zephyr Lake drifts and that these drifts may correlate with the apparent glacial deposits that exist further downslope of the Fountonnor moraines. If correct, the Fountonnor stand would be post Younger Dryas, and correlate with advances found at Mt. Rainier (10.4 ± 0.5 ka B.P.) and the Wallowa Mountains (10.2 ± 0.5 ka B.P.) (Heine, 1997; Licciardi et al., 2004) or the Younger Dryas advances found in British Columbia (11.5 ± 0.3 ka B.P.), the Enchantment Lakes Wilderness (>11.3 ka B.P.), and the San Bernadino Mountains (12.5 ± 0.5 ka B.P.) (Bilderback, 2004; Owen et al., 2003; Reasoner et al., 1994).

Climate reconstructions show that to maintain the LIA ELA (2630 m) the summer temperature would need to decrease by $0.2 - 1.0^\circ$ C and/or the mean winter precipitation would need to increase by 10 – 60 cm weq. From land based temperature data, global temperatures since 1850 (i.e. LIA) have increased by 0.5° C (Jones and Bradley, 1992), which closely resembles the changes necessary for the ELA depression at Three Sisters. Locally, tree ring data collected in the Pacific Northwest (Figure 37) indicate summer air temperatures have increased by $\sim 0.6^\circ$ C, while annual precipitation is approximately the same (< 5 cm difference) (Garfin and Hughes, 1996; Wiles et al., 1996). From both the tree ring data and the work by Jones

and Bradley (1992), it appears that the LIA ELA depression at Three Sisters may have been due primarily to a decrease in temperature and rather than increased snow fall.

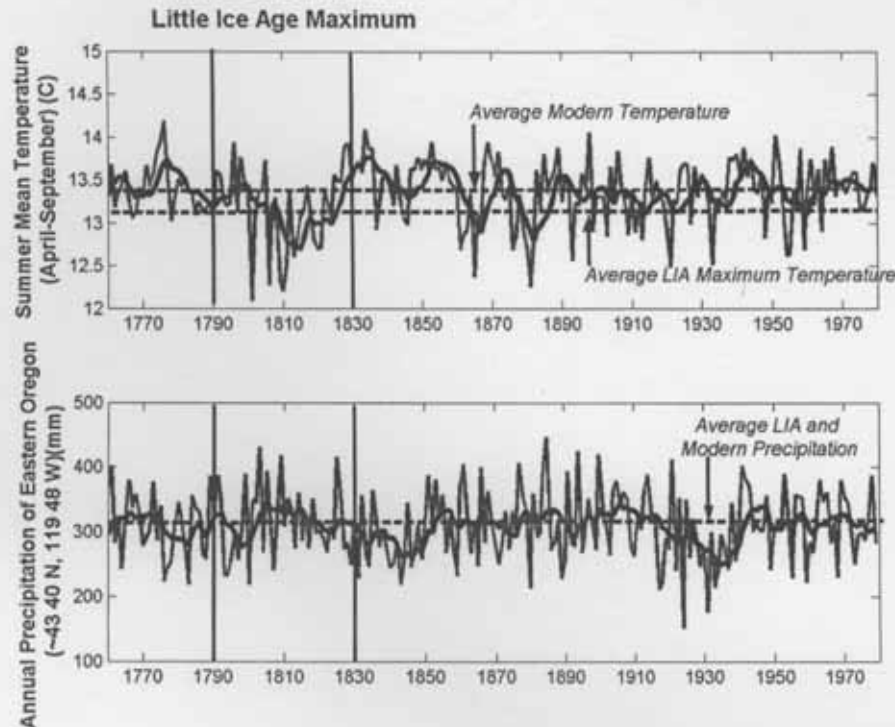


Figure 37: Reconstructed temperature and precipitation data from tree ring-widths and latewood density chronologies for the Pacific Northwest (1760-1980). Bold lines are 7-year moving average of temperature and precipitation data. The upper graph is the reconstructed mean temperature (°C) from April to September (Wiles et al., 1996). The lower graph is the reconstructed annual precipitation (mm) for several sites near 43°40' N, 119°48' W in Eastern Oregon (Garfin and Hughes, 1996).

For the Early-Neoglacial and Fountonnor stands a temperature decrease of 0.7 – 1.6° C and/or a winter precipitation increase of 40 – 100 cm weq. would have been necessary for the estimated ELA depression of the Early-Neoglacial glaciers (~280 m), while the Fountonnor glaciers (~320 m) would have required a temperature decrease of 1.5 – 1.7° C and a winter precipitation increase of 90 – 100 cm weq.

Evidence of cooling during the early Holocene and latest Pleistocene has come from a high-resolution record of sea surface temperature (SST) reconstructed from alkenones collected off the northern coast of California (ODP Site 1019). From the SST information at Site 1019, it is apparent that a cooling interval, similar in time to the Younger Dryas cooling, affected the eastern Pacific sea surface temperatures dropping them by as much as 4°C from modern levels (Figure 38) (Barron et al., 2003). Following this Younger Dryas-like cooling event, there was a brief warming period at ~ 11.3 ka B.P. followed by another cooling period (~ 1.5°C from modern) at ~ 11.0 ka B.P. These warming and cooling events during the early Holocene and late Pleistocene accord with a speleothem record collected at the Oregon Caves National Monument (Figure 39) (Vacco, 2003). If the glacial events at Three Sisters are correlative with the temperature data from the SST and speleothem records, then the apparent moraines downslope of the Fountonnor moraines may correlate with the more distinct and much cooler (~ 4°C) Younger Dryas cooling while the Fountonnor stand, which was much smaller and associated with a decreased in temperature by only 1.5 – 1.7°C, would resemble the post-Younger Dryas cooling (~1.5°C) at around 11.0 ka B.P (Figure 40). The Early-Neoglacial stand at the Three Sisters was after ~7.7 ka yrs. B.P. based on the lack of Mazama ash on the moraines. From the SST information at Site 1019, the Early-Neoglacial most likely occurred between 4500-6500 yrs. B.P where the temperature depression recorded from the alkenones (~1.5°C) was similar to the 0.7 – 1.6°C decrease at Three Sisters.

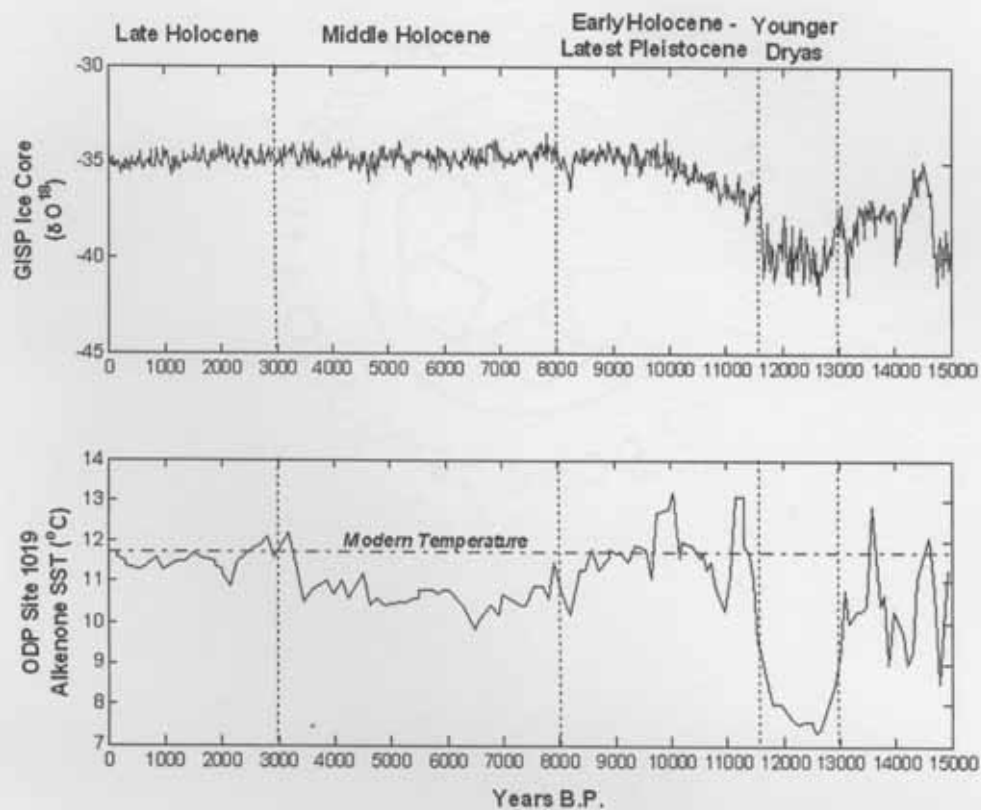


Figure 38: Reconstructed oxygen isotope curve from the GISP2 Ice Core record (top) (Stuiver and Grootes, 2000) and the reconstructed sea surface temperature (SST) from alkenones at Site 1019 in the Pacific Ocean just off the northern coast of California and southern coast of Oregon (bottom) (Barron et al., 2003).

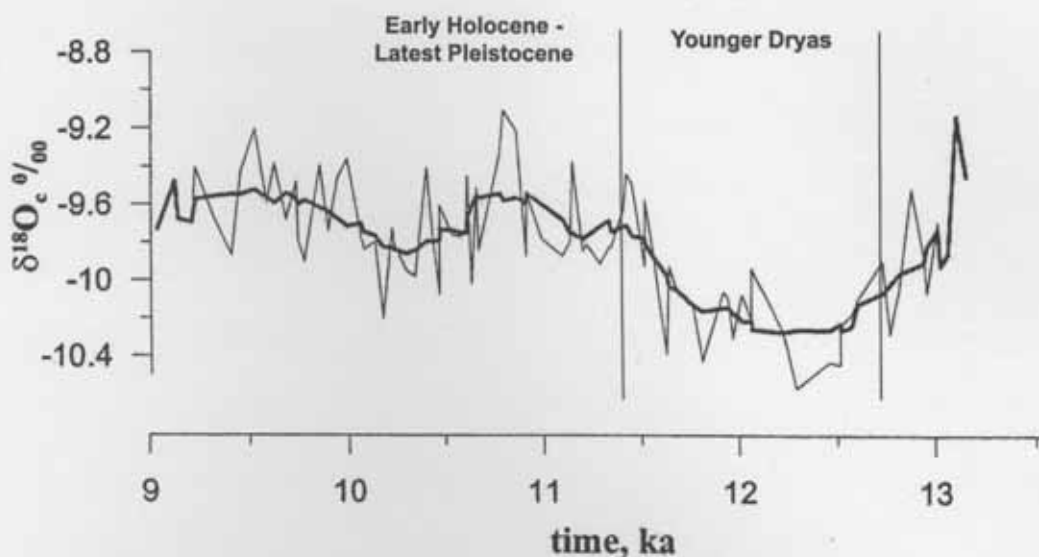


Figure 39: Oxygen-18 record from a stalagmite record (OCNM8-02A) collected from Oregon Caves National Monument in southwestern Oregon (Vacco, 2003). The bold line represents a 10-point running mean of the oxygen-18 data. It is apparent that a large cooling event took place during the Younger Dryas time intervals (13.0 – 12.0 ka B.P.) followed by a brief warming (12.0 – 10.8 ka B.P.) and cooling (10.8 – 10.0 ka B.P.) event.

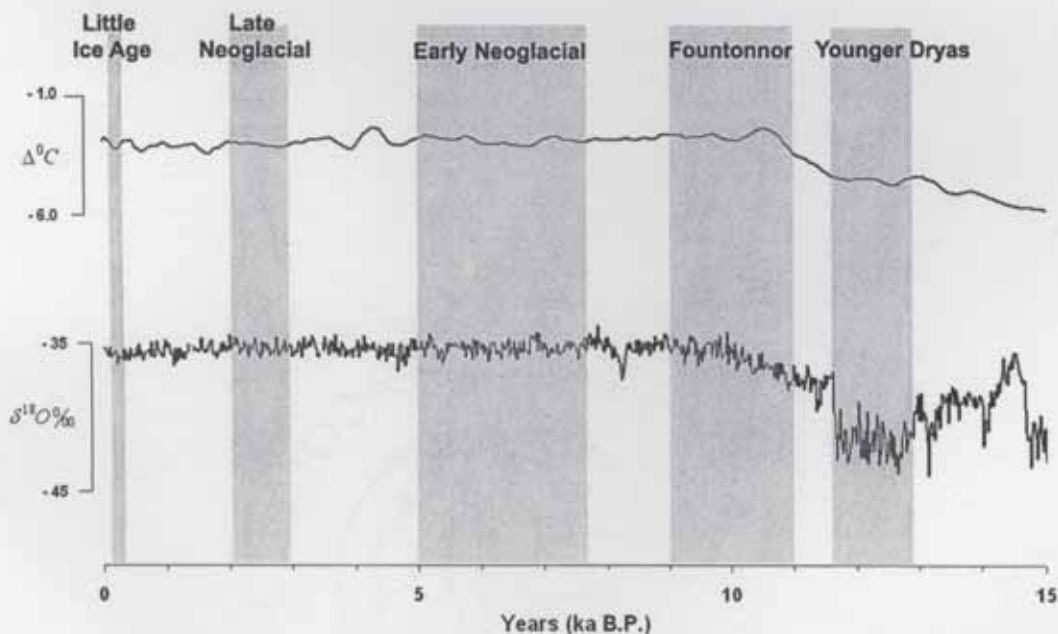


Figure 40: Comparison of glacial advances and stands in the Three Sisters Wilderness with inferred global air temperatures based on the oxygen isotope curve from the Greenland Ice Sheet Project 2 (GISP2) ice core (Stuiver and Grootes, 2000) and the deuterium curve from the Lake Vostok ice core from Antarctica (Lorius et al., 1985; Sowers et al., 1993).

Other evidence of both the Younger Dryas and post-Younger Dryas warming has come from pollen records collected in lake cores throughout western Oregon. Between 11.0 and 12.4 ka B.P. there was an increase in haploxylon *Pinus* pollen at Little Lake in the Oregon Coast Range, which would imply cooler winters and drier summers. Additionally, the expansion of *P. monticola* and decline of *Pseudotsuga* indicate cooler winters and more snowfall (Grigg and Whitlock, 1998; Worona and Whitlock, 1995). Following the cooling interval, the pollen record suggests that the vegetation was similar to modern forests and that there was a decrease in precipitation and warmer, drier summers between 10.2 and 11.0 ka B.P. Why the post-Younger Dryas cooling interval (~11 ka B.P.) found by Vacco (2003) and Barron et al. (2003) was not seen in the pollen records, is unknown. Perhaps the event was short lived and the vegetation in Oregon did not have time to equilibrate. However, the glacial advances at the Wallowa Mountains (10.2 ± 0.6 ka B.P.) (Licciardi et al., 2004) and Mt. Rainier (10.4 ± 0.5 ka B.P.) (Heine, 1997) suggest that a post-Younger Dryas advance did take place in the western United States.

4.2 Conclusions

At least four post Last Glacial Maximum glacial advances/stands marked by end and lateral moraines occurred on the eastern flanks of the Three Sisters Volcanoes and the northern flanks of Broken Top mountain in the central Cascade Mountains of Oregon. The youngest of these was the LIA glaciation, which reached its maximum 150-200 yrs. B.P. and is well defined by the 60 m high moraines adjacent to the

modern glaciers. Less than 100 m downslope from the LIA moraines, a second set of sparsely vegetated lateral moraines mark a Late-Neoglacial stand. These Late-Neoglacial moraines predate the local rhyolitic eruptions from the Devil's Hill and Rock Mesa volcanic chain on South Sister (2.1 ± 0.4 ka B.P.) and post date the Mount Mazama eruption (~ 7.7 ka B.P.). The moraines were likely deposited between 2 – 3 ka B.P. based on moraine weathering and vegetation cover. Beyond the Late-Neoglacial moraines, a third set of moraines is present 200-600 m downslope of the modern glacier termini. These moraines record the Early-Neoglacial stand of the glaciers and also predate the Devil's Hill and Rock Mesa eruptions and postdate the Mazama eruption. From SST temperature data (Barron et al., 2003) and a speleothem record (Vacco, 2003), it is most likely that this advance occurred between 4.5 and 6.5 ka B.P. A fourth set of moraines, which I have termed the Fountonnor moraines, are 500-900 m downslope of the modern glacier termini and pre-date $\sim 7,700$ yrs. B.P. based on the Mazama ash deposit on their slopes. These moraines may be latest Pleistocene or early Holocene in age inferred from their weathering characteristics, flat crests, vegetation cover, and soil development. An apparent fifth and possible sixth set of moraines exists 700-1500 m downslope of the modern glacier termini. The moraines are overlain by Mazama ash and are older than the Fountonnor moraines due to their heavier vegetation cover, severe weathering, and flattened moraine profiles.

From the paleoclimate signatures established from the glacial deposits at the Three Sisters and Broken Top, the average summer temperature would have cooled by $1.5 - 1.7^{\circ}\text{C}$ and the winter precipitation would have had to rise by 90 - 100 cm weq.

during the Fountonnor stand. These changes in temperature during the Fountonnor stand would suggest that during the latest Pleistocene and early Holocene (~10 – 11.5 ka B.P.) the temperature was cooler by 1-2°C in the summer and wetter by 50-150 cm weq. in the winter. This accords with sea surface temperatures records from California (Barron et al., 2003) and similar glacial advances in the Wallowa Mountains (10.2 ± 0.6 ka B.P.) (Licciardi et al., 2004) and Mt. Rainier (10.4 ± 0.5 ka B.P.) (Heine, 1997). Following this cooling period, the sea surface temperature data suggests a warming, similar to modern temperature values, until approximately 8 ka B.P. (Barron et al., 2003). Between 3 – 8 ka B.P., the Early-Neoglacial ELAs decreased ~280 m at Three Sisters suggesting cooler summer temperature (0.7 – 1.6°C) and wetter winters (40 – 100 cm weq.). This is consistent with SST records that were 1 – 2°C cooler during the summer (Barron et al., 2003). This cooling and wetting continued to approximately 3.5 ka B.P. until the temperature began to rise to modern values (Barron et al., 2003). Since, two minor summer cooling intervals of ~0.2 – 1.0°C and winter precipitation increases of 10 – 60 cm weq. at 2,000 – 3,000 (?) and 100 – 500 years ago have disrupted this warm and dry interval during the late Holocene. Because the moraines from the Late-Neoglacial are few, it is difficult to decipher the ELA depression. However, the LIA moraines are very apparent and average summer temperature would have been 0.2 – 1.0°C lower than present during the LIA to accommodate the 80 m difference between the modern and LIA ELAs. This is consistent with LIA global temperature cooling (Jones and Bradley, 1992) and local tree ring records (Wiles et al., 1996). These mid and late Holocene advances are

locally correlative with similar glacial events in the Mt. Hood (Lillquist, 1988), Mt. Jefferson (Scott, 1977), Mt. McLoughlin (Carver, 1972), and Mountain Lakes Wilderness (Carver, 1972) areas.

4.3 Suggestions for Future Work

The timing of glacial advances in the Three Sisters Wilderness is still relatively unknown. The majority of the glacial deposits have been dated using relative techniques, such as soil thicknesses and stratigraphic positions relative to tephras and lava flows. In most cases, these techniques are only precise to within $\pm 3000 - 5000$ yrs. precluding accurate correlation with advances/stands in other regions of western North America. Future research in the Three Sister Wilderness should include a rigorous attempt to find suitable material to date the glacial deposits and correlate their timing with other advances of western North America. This will aid in the refinement of regional and global climate models and will help in understanding how Oregon was affected by global climate anomalies (i.e. Younger Dryas and Heinrich events). Additionally, further detailed mapping of the Pleistocene and Holocene glacial deposits throughout Oregon is needed to help understand the magnitude of glaciation during the past 20 ka.

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Appendix: Detailed Stratigraphic Sections

The following detailed, stratigraphic columns were collected during the summer of 2004. Color descriptions for each section are generalizations and should not be confused with the traditional Munsell soil classification. Particle sizes, sorting, and rounding were determined by hand. Sample numbers (labeled as sample number-location-date) correspond to archived soil and rock samples from each unit.

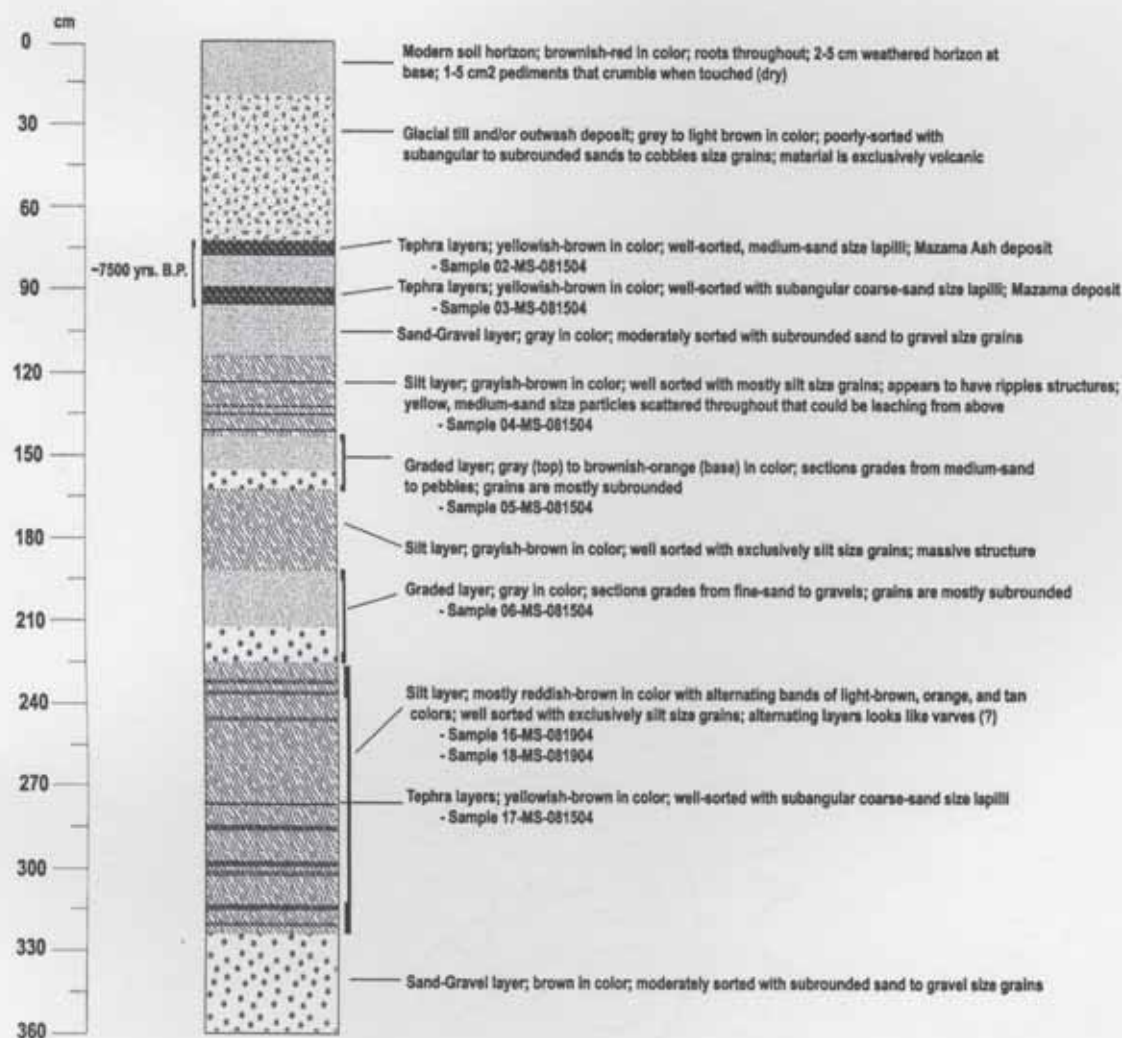


Figure 41: Detailed stratigraphic section of river exposure along the North Fork of Squaw Creek (Site 05)

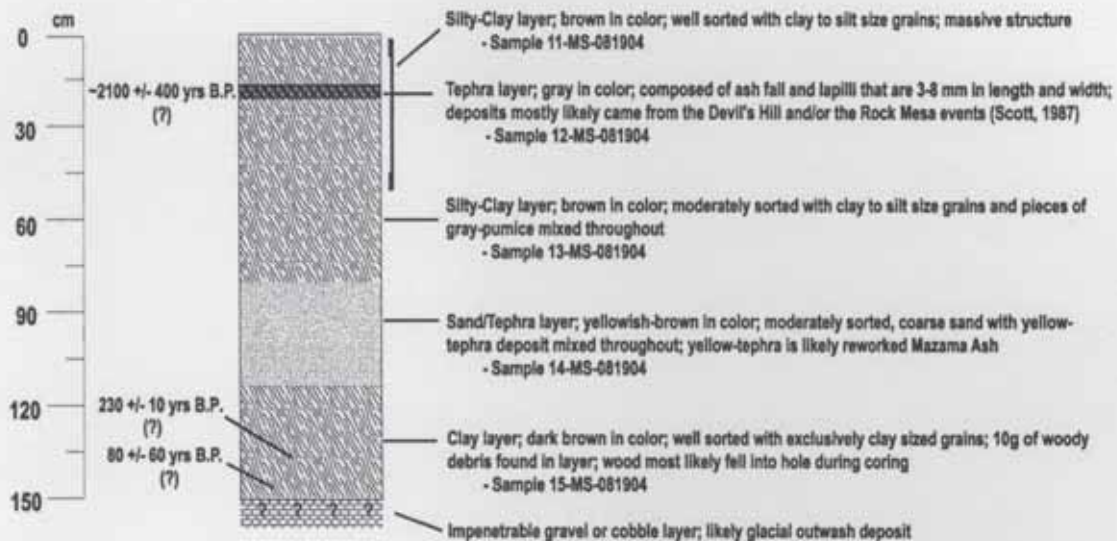


Figure 42: Detailed stratigraphic section of auger pit near Camp Lake between South and Middle Sisters (Site 16). Radiocarbon dates of 230 ± 10 yrs B.P. and 80 ± 60 yrs. B.P. correspond to Beta numbers 203136 and 200871, respectively.

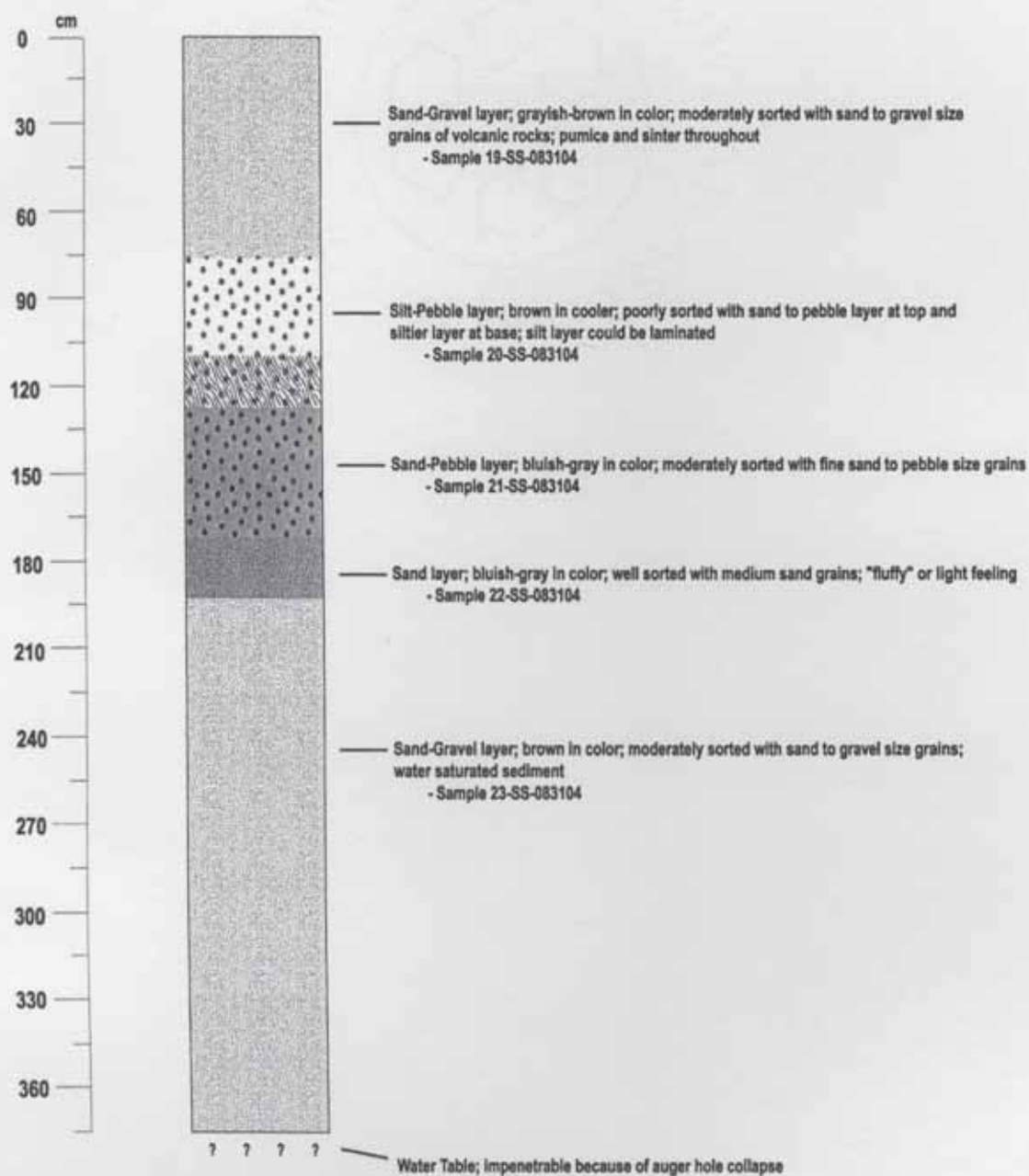


Figure 43: Detailed stratigraphic section of auger pit downslope of Carver Lake on South Sister (Site 18).

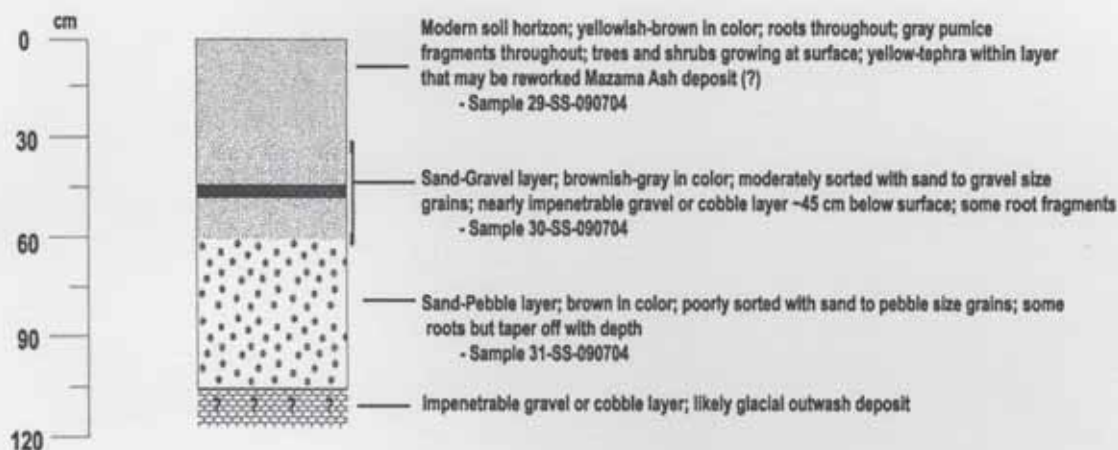


Figure 44: Detailed stratigraphic section of auger pit near Green Lake between South Sister and Broken Top Mountain (Site 20).

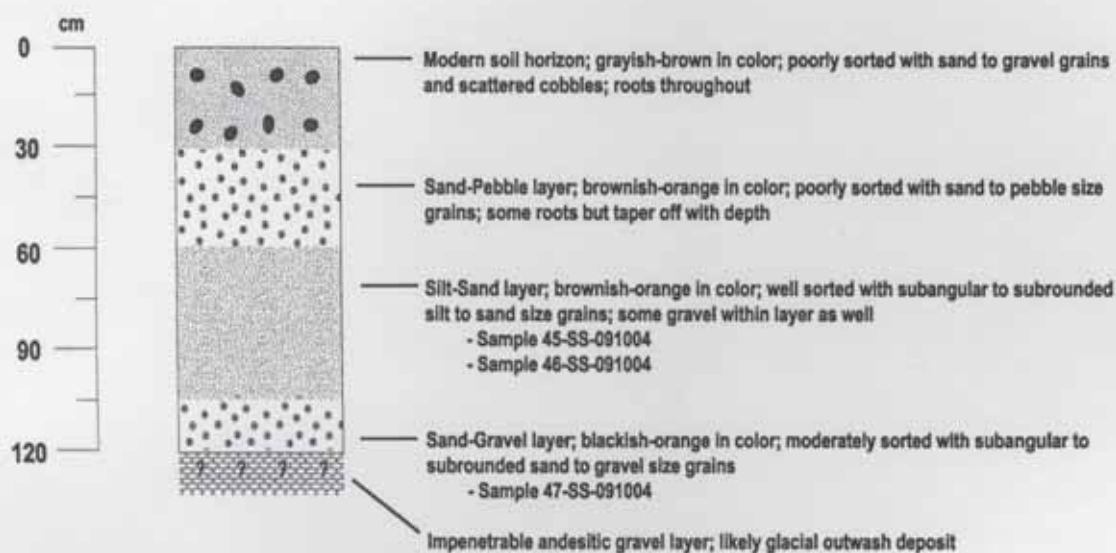


Figure 45: Detailed stratigraphic section of auger pit downslope of Prouty Glacier on South Sister (Site 24).

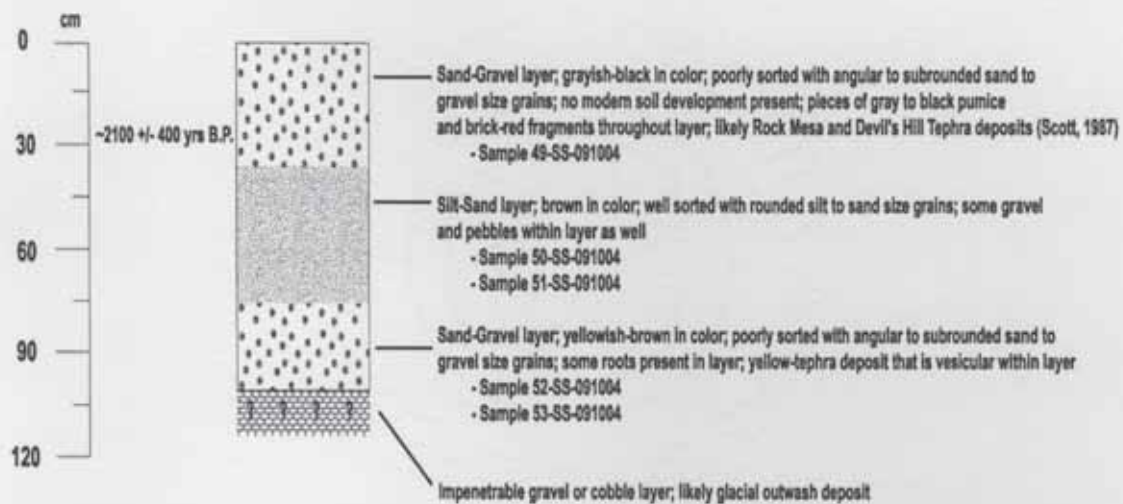


Figure 46: Detailed stratigraphic section of auger pit on saddle north of Green Lake (Site 27).

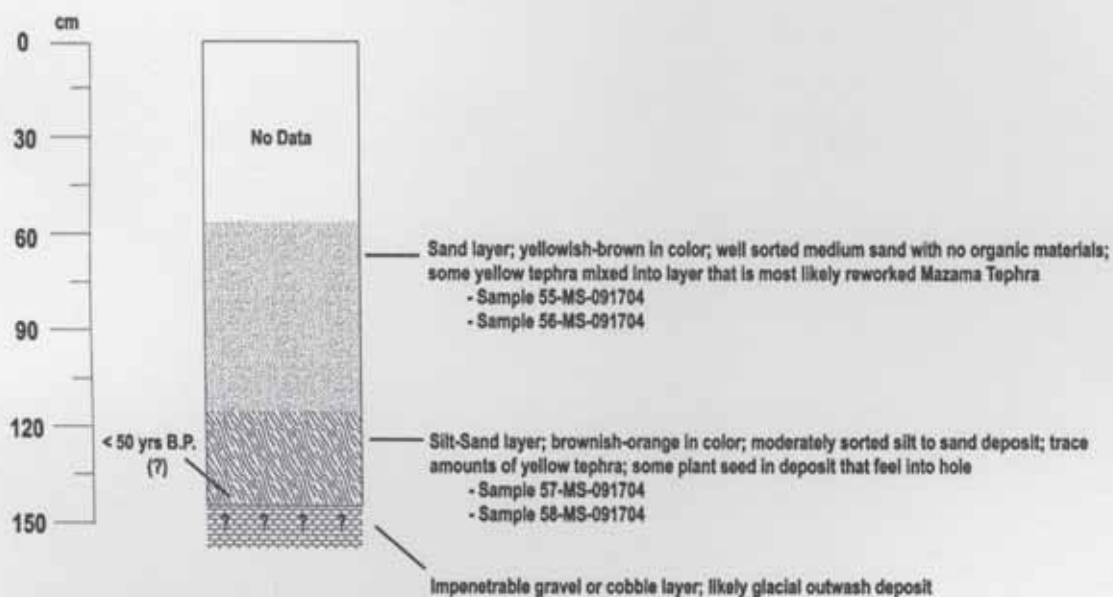


Figure 47: Detailed stratigraphic section of auger pit upslope of an apparent pre-Fountonnor moraine on Middle Sister (Site 32). Radiocarbon dates of < 50 yrs B.P. corresponds to Beta numbers 200872.

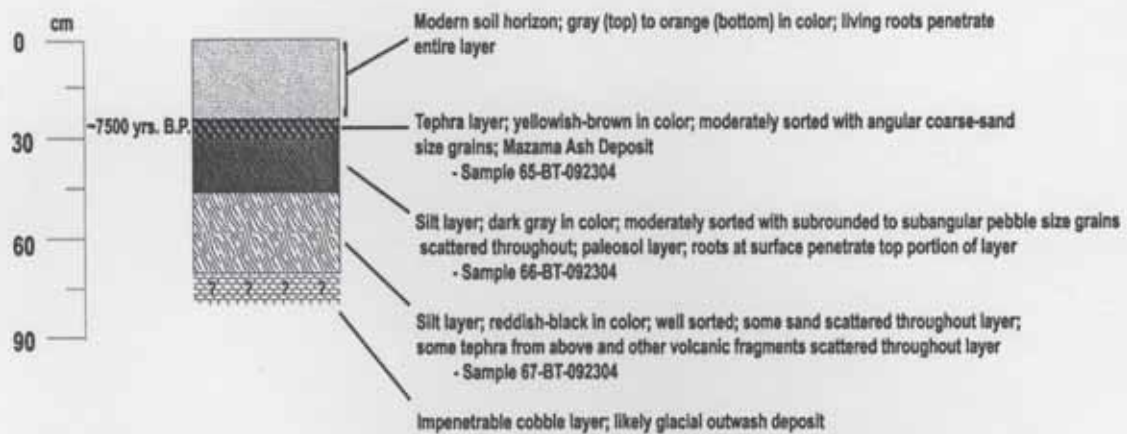


Figure 48: Detailed stratigraphic section of soil pit dug overlying a Fountonnor till or outwash deposit downslope of Broken Top (Site 41).

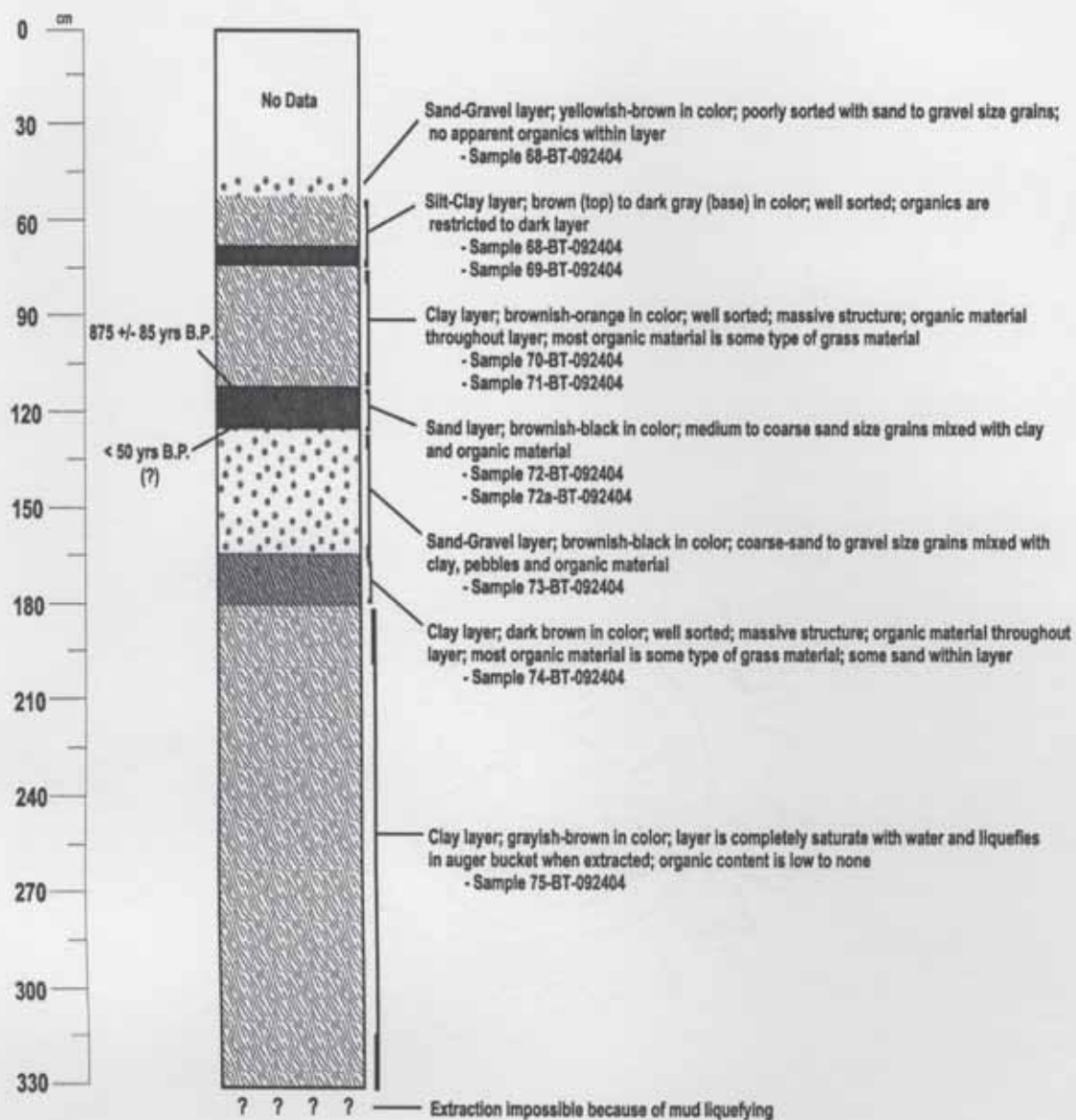


Figure 49: Detailed stratigraphic section of auger pit downslope of Bend Glacier on Broken Top (Site 43). Radiocarbon dates of 875 ± 85 yrs. B.P. and < 50 yrs. B.P. correspond to Beta numbers 200873 and 203137, respectively.